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1991—THE YEAR IN REVIEW™

PROFESSOR X:
MAN OF THE YEAR
ALSO INSIDE:
• THE X-MEN EXPOSÉ
• LOOK OUT BELOW, DONALD TRUMP! THE KINGPIN'S CORPORATION IS CRUMBLING TOO
• PROFILES: BLAZE IS BACK, SPIDER-MAN IS SMEARED, AND DARKHAWK IS DISCOVERED
ARTHUR ADAMS '91

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From the Editor

HEROISM
IT'S GOING AROUND

There's been a radical change in public sentiment over the past few years — since the induction of the Mutant Registration Act. Putting our super heroes before the public eye, and making us aware of what benefits to society they can be, has helped to improve the mutant reputation. This may be the only good to have come out of that now repealed act. Now that we hear about the X-Men's exploits on a daily basis, they're no longer evil and scary — they're media stars!

And because super heroes have become media stars, they've also become role models for many other super power-enhanced humans and mutants.

Just this past year more and more U.S. citizens have stepped forward, donned costumes, adopted secret identities, and helped save the world. Some are old faces with a new outlook, but most are brand new, untried heroes. Our profiles this year will give you a taste of this new super-action: Darkhawk, Nomad, Blaze, the new Thor, and X-FORCE to name but a few.

With super hero popularity at an all-time high, all this new super-action isn't really surprising. And neither is the public support for it. I wouldn't be surprised if in 1992 the number of super heroes/super vigilantes doubles!

Bobbie Chase

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1991 — THE YEAR IN REVIEW

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When Galactus came to us for an appetite suppressant, we knew more than our jobs were on the line.

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Dear Year-In-Reviewers,

All I can say is, wow! You've done it again! MARVEL 1990 — THE YEAR IN REVIEW was even better than last year's. The articles were great, the artwork was awesome and the ads were hilarious! I can't wait to see what you guys do next year. So, until Galactus goes on a diet, make mine Marvel!

Peter Simms
113 Briarwood Lane
Alfalfa, LA 08799

Dear Bobbie,

I have never written to any magazine before, but after reading MARVEL 1990 — THE YEAR IN REVIEW, I just had to write in and tell you how much I loved it. I've been reading Marvel Comics for years but sometimes I had a little trouble keeping up with what was going on everywhere in the Marvel Universe. That's why I was so excited when I saw THE YEAR IN REVIEW. I was able to find out everything I missed. I loved the articles on Deathlok, the Hulk (which has become my favorite book), and Ghost Rider. I especially liked the funny ads. The "Dr. Doom for Latverian Express" ad was so good I put it up on my door! The only suggestion I would make is that, instead of doing it every year, you should do it every month! Thanks again for a job well done.

John Bell
74 Parkside Dr.
Page, AR 87543

Dear Marvel Maniacs,

I've got a bone to pick with you! What's the idea of putting the Silver Surfer on your "10 Worst Dressed" list and putting Magneto on the "10 Best Dressed" list? How dare you make fun of the Surfer! Don't you know he's the coolest super hero ever? No one looks better than he does, especially not Magneto who didn't lift a finger to stop Thanos and the Infinity Gauntlet! Other than that, the rest of the magazine was very good. Just make sure you don't mess with the Surfer next year!

Mark Rubin
187 28th St.
Brooklyn, NY 10014

Dear Everybody Who Made MARVEL 1990 — THE YEAR IN REVIEW,

I've been a loyal Marvel fan since I was twelve years old (I'm twenty now) and I had to tell you my honest opinion of MARVEL 1990 — THE YEAR IN REVIEW. I LOVED IT!!! I am the biggest Captain America fan ever and I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw him on the cover! Kudos to Kevin Maguire and Josef Rubinstein for their awesome cover art. Making Cap the Man of The Year on his fiftieth anniversary was a great idea, but I feel obliged to point out that Cap isn't just the Man of The Year, he's the Man of the Century! Kudos also to Fabian Nicieza for his most excellent article on the Sentinel of Liberty. I also loved the Nick Fury article by Barry Dutter (does Dick Clark really use the Infinity Formula?), the New Warriors article by Wayne Worcestershire (too bad the New Warriors still haven't taken his advice and changed their names) and of course, the "classifieds" (I sure hope you put them in next year's issue). I also thought the "Loose Lips" article by Suzanne Gaffney was very clever; I mean, since a lot of what's in comic books is sort of soap opera-ish anyway, why not? Well, anyway, keep up the good work, see you next year. Excelsior!

Alex Wills
55 Randall Rd.
Livingston, NJ 07880

Dear Marvel Year in Review staff,

When I first saw MARVEL 1990 — THE YEAR IN REVIEW on the shelf of my local comic shop, I thought, big deal, what are they going to tell me that I don't already know? I mean, I read almost every Marvel comic every month, I've seen all the great artwork, so what's so special about this? Boy, did I feel like a jerk after I picked it up! After thumbing through it for a few seconds I could tell that this *was* something special! What I liked best about it was how funny it was. The Classified section had me on the floor with laughter. My favorite was the one for super hero snapshots, "I've seen 'em all! Call 555-Uatu". That Ghost Rider advertisement was also great, "Some

people would sell their soul for a bike like this ... some already have!" The art on this ad was great, if you ever decide to make a poster out of it I'll be the first to buy one. And speaking of art, that sneak preview of THE SWIMSUIT ISSUE with Mary Jane knocked my socks off! You *must* do another one of those! By the way, thanks a lot for the Hulk article. The Hulk was always one of my favorite characters, but I hadn't read it in a while and wasn't sure about why he was gray. Now, thanks to you, I do (but I am glad that he's green again). Thanks again for something so special.

Alberto Internio
90 E. Main St.
Lumberton, SC 17450

Dear staff of THE YEAR IN REVIEW,

I just finished reading the MARVEL YEAR IN REVIEW and thought it was great. It was very entertaining, I wouldn't change a thing. I only have one question: Doesn't anybody in the Marvel Universe ever stay dead? There were a total of fourteen (FOURTEEN) characters on the list of resurrections. Thanos, Ghost Rider, Super Skrull, Deathlok, Vindicator, Green Goblin all came back from the dead! I realize that they're just comic book characters, but *come on* ! It's just not possible for all these people to come back from the dead all the time. I mean, do *you* know of anybody who's come back?

Willie Hart
707 Lilac Ct.
Napa, CA 98654

Wonder Man, in a lighter moment.

IS IT A WONDERFUL LIFE?

A Hollywood Musclehead's Struggle for Respect

Whhoom! The eighteen wheeler finishes the somersault on its side, then explodes in a pyrotechnic fury, raining debris around the area as it burns. Then, out of the flames, walks a dark-haired, well-muscled man. His clothes are on fire, but they go out as he emerges unscathed from the firestorm. With a defiant sneer apparently intended for the Grim Reaper, the man raises his submachine gun, more or less aims it —

— and the director yells, "Cut, cut , cut!"

The man is immediately hosed down with carbon dioxide, dousing the few remaining flames licking at his exposed skin. He does not remove a fireproof suit. He does not need medical attention. He is *Simon Williams*, and he's not happy.

"What the — was that, Simon?" Director *James Camera* pleads as he rises from his chair. "I thought we had gone over this enough, I thought we were clear on your expression at the end of that shot ..."

Williams regards Camera with a tired, dangerous look — much like the one Camera's complaining about. "Jim, I'm playing a murderous, unstoppable robot —"

"Yes," Camera interrupts, "but you're playing a murderous, unstoppable robot who's really an okay guy deep down. I mean, you've got to accept that I want that angle, that good guy angle, that family angle."

It's a familiar scene here on the set of RoboKiller 2, as Simon Williams attempts to please both director and his own artistic sensibilities. Williams — whose status as a member of the WEST COAST AVENGERS super hero organization and as Hollywood's only action hero/stuntman makes him one of the most visible people in America — is nevertheless a man who has yet to accomplish that which he set out to do.

Simon Williams wants to be taken seriously.

Certainly he is taken seriously by many criminals who have run afoul of *Wonder Man* (Williams' super hero alias) and the rest of the AVENGERS. After all, Wonder Man is an ionically-powered juggernaut, incomprehensibly strong and virtually indestructible.

But when Simon Williams says he wants some serious acting roles, most people smirk. It's hard to imagine the man who fought Arkon IV playing Hamlet, or Willie Loman, or even Captain Kirk.

"Basically, people like to see more of what they've already seen," Williams theorizes, now relaxing in his trailer waiting for the next take. "Because I'm invulnerable, and because I can do all my own stunts, my Hollywood career has taken a path that can only be described as 'the low road.'

"The public has gotten so used to seeing me fight and get exploded and stuff like that, they have a real hard time picturing me as a real actor." Williams takes a sip of seltzer water. "So do casting directors," he adds somewhat glumly. "They can't get that image of me out of their minds."

In some ways, it's not surprising. In July, Williams — as Wonder Man — fought and defeated the superhuman criminal known as *Goliath* ... on live television. The images of the amazing battle were burned into the public's collective vision as readily as any of Williams' film roles.

More so, by his own admission, Williams got into acting through stunt work. Now, with little or no drama training, he wants to be a serious actor. Just how realistic is "The Tinseltown Avenger" really being?

"I don't know whether I'll eventually get the roles I'm hoping for ... I don't even know for sure whether I could handle them if I did get them," Williams admits, revealing a usually-hidden vulnerability. "But if there's one thing I've learned in my lives, it's that it's up to you to make yourself happy. And that means sacrifice, persistence, desire."

Some kid comes by the trailer, tells Williams they've got the scene set up again. For a man who can juggle Toyotas, it seems awfully difficult for Williams to push himself up out of his chair. "Well, time to blow up again," he sighs as he walks back to the set.

But this time, the scene comes out right.

— *Wayne Worcestershire*

A MAN CALLED BLAZE

Is the former Ghost Rider back in circulation?

Where there's smoke, there's fire, and where there's *Ghost Rider*, there's *Blaze* ... or so eyewitnesses in New York have claimed. A tougher, meaner *John Blaze* has returned from obscurity just in time to battle his own alter ego! Confused? So were we ...

Johnny Blaze, you may recall, was the clean-cut stunt cyclist who made headlines years ago when he was said to be the human host to the original, more homicidal Ghost Rider! After repeated attempts to purge himself of the demon, Blaze claimed to have magically imprisoned it, and sure enough, that Ghost Rider was never seen again.

Enter the new Ghost Rider, who last summer was reported to have been in an explosive conflict in Central Park involving the N.Y.P.D., the mercenary organization H.E.A.R.T., and a deformed mass murderer called *Blackout*. Also on the scene was a weather-worn, Harley-riding, chain-smoking, shotgun-toting terror who identified himself to police as "John Blaze! " Eyewitness accounts tell of this man locked in a death-struggle with Ghost Rider, and even blasting the demon with bona fide hellfire from an earthly shotgun! A man matching the same description had turned up in police reports in the weeks before, moving eastward across the the country, fighting in midwest barrooms and fending off muggers in New Jersey! Whoever this guy is, he just can't seem to keep his nose out of trouble! Was he the victim of circumstance, or was he trekking towards a final showdown with Ghost Rider? We assumed so until recently, when the same man was seen fighting alongside Ghost Rider and *Spider-Man* against the *Hobgoblin*!

Was that indeed Johnny Blaze's trademark leather jacket seen peeking out from beneath this man's trenchcoat? MYIR set out to find what had become of Johnny Blaze since he dropped out of sight. We found that he is now the proprietor of the old carnival where he was once a stunt biker. As we approached the home address we had turned up, we rather expected to find some Hell's Angels dive with choppers crunching over smashed beer bottles and Motorhead blaring from a window. We found instead a modest split-level house in a quiet residential neighborhood. Although Blaze himself was suspiciously absent, we spoke to a woman alleging to be his wife, who swore up and down that John Blaze is now a simple family man. He owns a perfectly harmless carnival, she said, and is certainly in no way connected with the occult and certainly not with any demons, flame-headed or otherwise. When we told her of the accounts of her husband parading around with Ghost Rider shooting hellfire at flying goblins in New York City, she turned several shades of white and cut the interview abruptly short.

Thus, we are left with no conclusive answers. If it indeed was Johnny Blaze on that night in New York, then the man who once shared his soul with a demon has become a demon hunter, and by far the nastiest we've ever heard of. If this is the case, we can presume that his mission didn't end with his battle with Ghost Rider or the defeat of Hobgoblin. What other demons or monsters might he have set the sights of that hellfire-spouting shotgun on? Has Blaze become the occult's answer to the *Punisher*?

The way explosive conflict follows this man around, we feel certain we won't be kept guessing for long.

— Kevin Kobasic

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and children on the go.
Knightmare6

The Old Order Changeth And Changeth

Following their change of status from a U.S. government-sponsored group to a special unit of the United Nations peace keeping force, the AVENGERS, both East and West, have been voting feverishly to see who stays and who goes. On the West Coast the top seven heroes become regular members, the next seven will be alternate members. Even at the last minute their were shocks and surprises; the U.S. government dropped their insistence that *U.S. Agent* be a member. It was down to personality, and he managed to gain one vote. Now who could that be?

No sooner was a team announced, consisting of *Iron Man, Wonder Man, Scarlet Witch, Hawkeye, Tigra, The Wasp,* and *Dr Henry Pym* than resignations started pouring in. Dr. Pym and his ex wife *Janet Van Dyne* (The Wasp) declared their intentions of going their separate ways, and speculations of a love re-match bit the dust. Dr. Pym said, "I want to spend more time with my Infrared Particle Bombarder." The Wasp will be pursuing a film career, not as a star, but as a writer. Her first screenplay is drawing heavy studio interest. When pushed to comment on her relationship with her ex-husband she said, "Hank and I are good friends, very good friends."

Two people who are not such good friends, Hawkeye and U.S. Agent were quick to continue their well-publicized grudge match with a private free-for-all on the AVENGERS WEST COAST's beach. No punches were pulled and Hawkeye lost more than his pride that night. It was formally announced the following day by the AVENGERS' press secretary that U.S. Agent had been expelled, and Hawkeye was on probation. U.S. Agent, however, was more direct in his comments: "I wasn't pushed; I jumped. I have my reputation to consider." No sooner did he pack his bags, than there was another super hero hanging around the team. Reliable sources claim that *Spider-Woman* is now part of the group, and has been seen fighting with Hawkeye in Hawaii. She's a new one for the scorecards but has been known to hang out with FREEDOM FORCE in the past.

If you thought you needed a scorecard to keep track of all the AVENGERS, then you need a computer to keep up with the costumed characters they seem to encounter. Starting with *Dr. Demonicus* and THE PACIFIC OVERLORDS a group which includes *Jawbreaker, Taifu, Kaluwa, Sunfire, Pele, Iroquois, Cyberfrog* and *Living Lightning*, they have been turning up everywhere from Australia to Japan and from Hawaii to California. Apart from getting the better of the AVENGERS even capturing a few, their plans have seemed somewhat shadowy.

It became a little clearer when the captured AVENGERS and THE PACIFIC OVERLORDS turned up on a new island that had suddenly erupted from the Pacific sea bed just south of the Hawaiian Islands. A representative from Dr. Demonicus's new island of Demonica made a special plea to the United Nations for swift acceptance into the organization, but we have learned that life was not tranquil on this Pacific island. Taifu, Pele, Sunfire and Living Lightning all escaped their freedom when the remaining AVENGERS attacked the island. The AVENGERS were unable to pursue their victory for the moment Demonica became a sovereign nation, the AVENGERS new UN charter stipulated they leave. At times like this they would have been better off working for the U.S.

In the confusion their line-up changed once again. Tigra, Dr. Pym and The Wasp all left. Living Lightning and Sunfire flash along with U.S. Agent, who gave no one any chance to object.

— Richard Ashford

Feature

Mutant Revolution

We all want to change the world.

by Suzanne Gaffney

Recently, pressures in the mutant world have forced its members to take action and appoint mutant leaders, who have emerged to meet the challenges of new and even more deadly adversaries. *Cable* and *Professor Charles Xavier*, two noteworthy figures in the history of mutant and non-mutant relations, sit at the helm, each charting a different course, following a separate agenda, and each reacting to fundamental changes in the world we all live in.

Cable — a man of few words and seemingly even fewer friends, came to our attention after taking over a group called the NEW MUTANTS. He is reported to have taken a group of young, naive kids and turned them into a tough fighting team, pruning the group until he had the exact combination of talents he was looking for. At that time he renamed the new group X-FORCE.

Along with his reasoning behind turning such young students into aggressive fighters, his battle philosophies have also come into question. His defensive tactic of attacking first, and not waiting for the battle to come to him, is a new approach to what he sees as a war he must fight in order to change a dark future which will be disastrous for mutantkind. Cable's methods and connections have not escaped the notice of the U.S. government and it has been rumored that U.S. agents have been sent to recall Cable with little success. His team consists of *Domino*, *Shatterstar*, *Boom Boom Cannonball*, *Feral*, and *Warpath*.

Though a restrained and dignified individual, Charles Xavier has been the greatest catalyst for change in the life of the X-MEN teams. He has chosen to support a more conventional yet no less effective path in following his vision.

Though these two men both figure prominently in any debate of the mutant situation, their approaches and their hopes for the future could hardly be more different. While Cable prepares his team for the coming of a dark future, Xavier envisions a future where mutants can peacefully cohabitate with non-mutants. He believes teams like the X-MEN should serve to protect humankind from mutants who would do them harm, as well as mutants who would be harmed by other mutants.

As tensions escalate to all-time highs, it would be prudent to take a look at the main events of this year in the mutant world, if for no greater reason than because what affects *Homo sapiens superior* will sooner or later affect *Homo sapiens sapiens*.

In the news of late, it seems Cable's new team, X-FORCE, has had its hands full, with targets like the MUTANT LIBERATION FRONT, *Stryfe*, and the deadly *Deadpool* on their agenda.

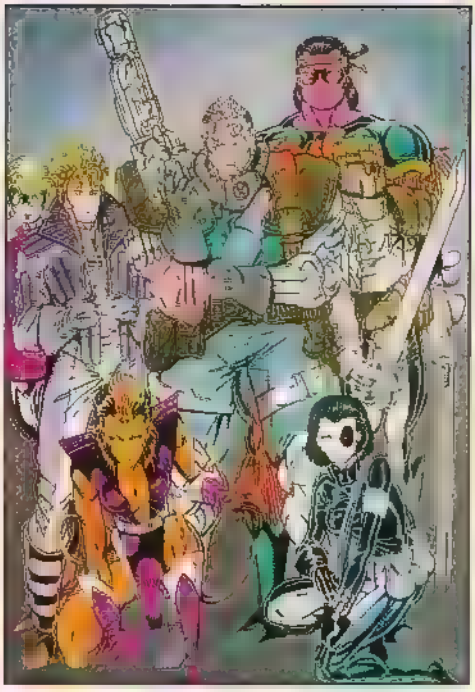
A recent terrorist attack in which former team member *Roberto DaCosta* and multimillionaire entrepreneur *Gideon* were held hostage by *Black Tom Cassidy* and *Juggernaut* ended in the destruction of a large section of the World Trade Center.

X FACTOR, at that time a team comprised of the original X-MEN, started its year off by rescuing *Iceman's* girlfriend, *Opal*, from the clutches of her grandfather, Japanese mogul *Tatsuo*, who had kidnapped her to arrange a marriage between her and one of his cybernetically enhanced "lieutenants."

Rescuing Opal must have seemed like child's play in comparison to the challenge that met them once they arrived home. X-FACTOR battled their archenemy, *Apocalypse*, over the life of their sentient home base *Ship* and team leader *Cyclops's* son. One theory blames this confrontation for the destruction of Ship, and Cyclops's son is reported to have been sent to an undetermined location for treatment of an alien virus he was infected with during battle

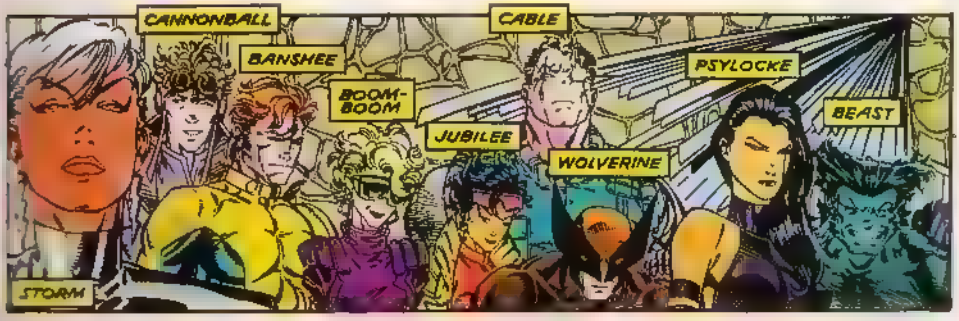
The X-MEN, meanwhile, were anything but inactive X-MEN member *Rogue* allied with *Ka-Zar*, *Magneto*, *Nicholas Fury* and UN forces to defeat *Zaladane* in her attempt at sovereignty of the Savage Land.

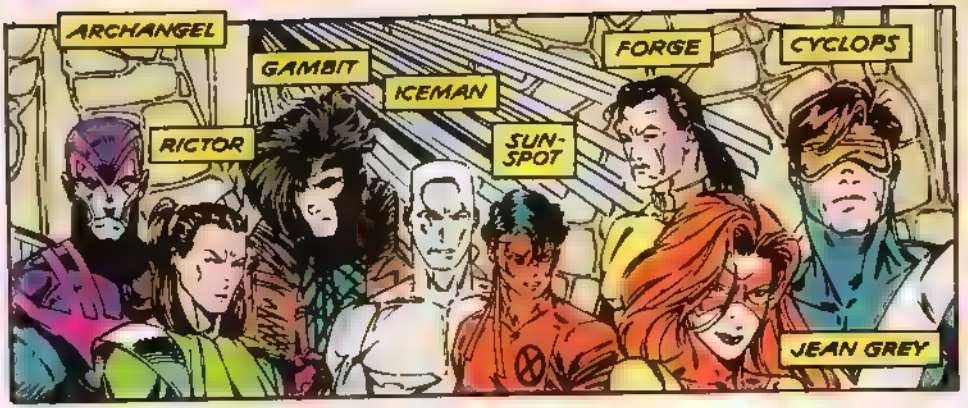
The super hero teams of X-MEN and X-FACTOR next tangled with the *Shadow King*, who was revealed to be working through the body of *Jacob Reisz* of the F.B.I. The realization that these teams were fighting a different, more ruthless level of opponent than ever before hit home when they lost the mutant *Legion* in battle. Xavier, present as a consultant to the U.S. government, was reportedly injured



Apparently continuing his consultant role, Xavier allegedly suggested reorganizing the X-teams to make them the most effective fighting machines they could be. His first move was to rejoin the members of X-FACTOR to the team of X-MEN. He then separated the large grouping into two extremely effective strike forces. One team, termed the 'Blue' team, led by Cyclops, consisted of *Gambit*, *Psylocke*, *Wolverine*, *Rogue* and the *Beast*; the other team, led by *Storm*, with *Colossus*, *Archangel*, *Marvel Girl*, and *Iceman*, would be known as the 'Gold' team.

Next the government-sanctioned FREEDOM FORCE team was replaced with the new X-FACTOR team. This team would be led by *Havok*, who recently returned from





a reconstruction project in Genosha where he and other mutants fought to free its mutant population from slavery. Roll call on this team includes *Polaris*, *Wolfsbane*, the *Multiple Man*, *Guido*, and *Quicksilver*

The new teams apparently had little time to learn to work with each other before they were sent into action Things came full circle as Magneto set up a home base on Asteroid M, orbiting precariously above Russia, and was persuaded by a group of his followers, called *Acolytes*, to become mutantkind's savior once again. The 'Blue' X-MEN team was sent to deal with Magneto as he attempted to raise the ballistic missile submarine Leningrad to salvage its nuclear missiles. Despite the ensuing conflict, Magneto made good his escape with a nuclear arsenal in tow

Magneto detonated one nuclear missile over Russia, which caused the activation of a set of guidelines called the Magneto Protocol, and Russia retaliated by destroying Asteroid M with a plasma cannon

At the same time, the Acolytes staged a battle with the island of Genosha, which more than anything seemed to be a show of force brought upon in retaliation for crimes committed against the island's mutant population by its government

Closer to home, the X-MEN then allied themselves with the *White Queen* to combat the UPSTARTS, a new group of rebellious mutants seeking to replace the old guard. *Fitzroy*, the current leader of the UPSTARTS, used his ability to open time portals to bring many allies from the future to fight with him against the X-MEN. He also brought three X-MEN from the future. Only one, named *Bishop*, survived. The White Queen is reported to have been killed in this conflict

As this new class of miscreant mutants become greater threats to mankind and mutantkind alike, one must hope that great leaders will be made from ordinary individuals and current leaders will continue to rise to the challenges presented to them. As the struggle for justice and self-made dignity continues, where it will end and what will be written as history is impossible to predict. But we can know that the only constant is change, and that may indeed be man's salvation

Northern Speculation

or Weapon Omega: All Greek to me ...

He's sleek. He's suave. He's smart. But who is he? *Weapon Omega*, Canadian super team ALPHA FLIGHT's newest member, is as mysterious as he is capable — which is very mysterious indeed!

Although only on the scene for a short while, Weapon Omega has made a splash in the world community. We don't know who he is, but we do have some clues:

First there are the basic observations: Weapon Omega is male, caucasian, close to six feet tall, with an athletic build.

He has displayed no obvious super powers (i.e. energy manipulation abilities, wings/flight ability, or built-in armor). Of course, this does not rule out the possibility of heightened mental abilities or non-visual spectrum energy manipulation abilities.

He is a very good hand-to-hand combatant, with the moves of a world-class gymnast.

Weapon Omega speaks North American English with no trace of a regional accent, though his voice does seem distorted by his mask. His grammar, diction, and use of vocabulary are impeccable.

His mind is sharp, clear, and calm. His tactical skills, reaction time, and coordination are simply amazing. (It has been reported by an anonymous source that Weapon Omega played a key part in defeating the alchemist-turned-despot *Diablo* in South America. Quite a feat when one compares a purported one thousand years of experience to roughly ten official hours worth.) Weapon Omega appears to be the consummate professional.

Weapon Omega works for the Canadian government's DEPARTMENT H and became a member of ALPHA FLIGHT without the team's prior knowledge or consent.

Weapon Omega uses no external weapons or devices (i.e. guns, knives, personal armor, etc.).

Weapon Omega's name is very similar to that of the former ALPHA FLIGHT leader, *Weapon Alpha* (later *Vindicator*, killed in action), and to that of Canada's *Weapon X* (certain semi-declassified files suggest he may now be operating with the mutant X-MEN under the code name *Wolverine*).

And, after observation comes speculation:

Weapon Omega is someone who has been in the super hero business before. His obvious acceptance and code-naming by DEPARTMENT H, and his apparent comfort with the incredibly dangerous situations found in superhuman combat, tend to support this. However, the use of the given name and the unrevealing non-distinctive costume tend to suggest that Weapon Omega's first super heroic attempt was an embarrassment that he wouldn't want to be associated with.

—*Jean Saykwa*

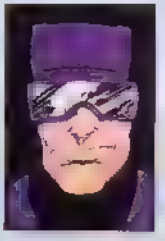
We don't know who he is — but who could he be?
Here goes:

◀ The Punisher
(Very tough, no powers, rumored to have gone to Canada, but tends to rely heavily on the use of external weaponry.)

Hank Pym ▶
(He's been almost every other super hero — why not one more?)

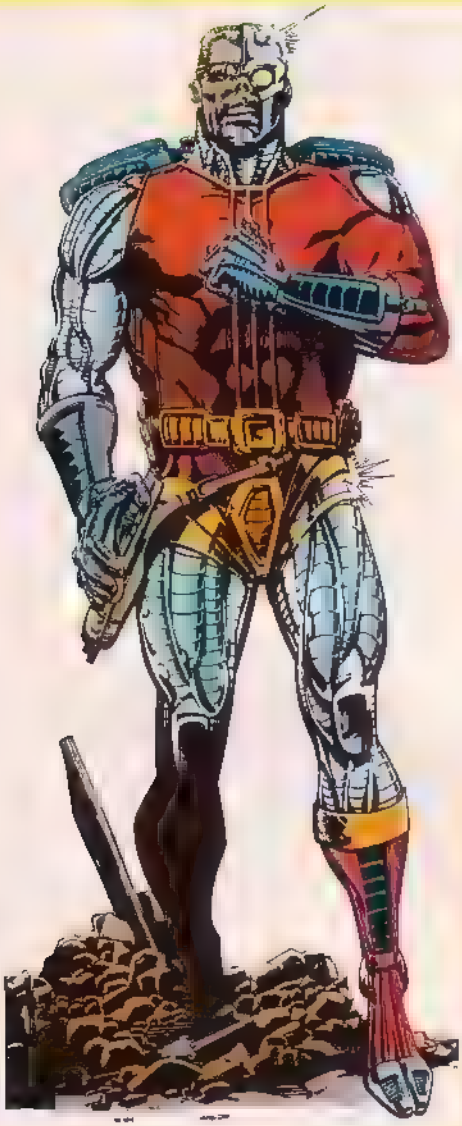
◀ Rick Jones (He's always hanging around with super heroes.)

Wild Child ▶
(Canadian, a former super hero with a bad record, but also a complete psycho. He has no obvious super powers. He is very strong and resilient. But it's been said that a century of charm school couldn't polish the rough spots on him.)



◀ Paladin
(Has super strength, refined manners, but tends to rely on external devices. Also is too hung up on making big bucks to work for the Canadian government.)

Nomad ▶
(Travels a lot, strong, tough, and smart. However, uses firearms and is a definite loner.)



CYBERTEK SYSTEMS Shut Down: Harlan Ryker Branded a Traitor

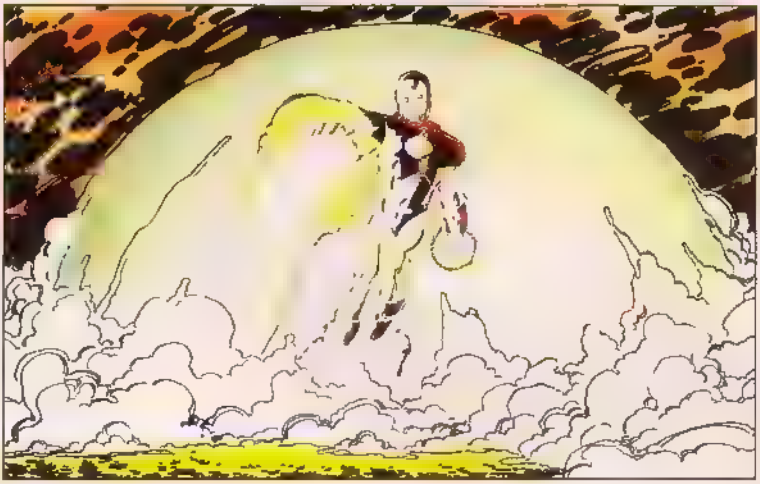
CYBERTEK SYSTEMS, INC., will no longer suffer from the unending series of scandals it has recently experienced, as it has been unceremoniously shut down.

CYBERTEK made headlines last year after its involvement with the *Deathlok* cyborg was made public. CYBERTEK's CEO, *Harlan Ryker*, designed Deathlok to be a deadly weapon, and used the killing machine throughout the world to further not only his own interests, but also those of CYBERTEK's parent company, ROXXON OIL. This was most notably apparent in Deathlok's headline-grabbing attack on the people of the small South American country of ESTRELLA. A number of the natives, who were protesting an environmentally unsound dam project funded with huge sums by none other than ROXXON OIL, were murdered by Deathlok, and Ryker was held responsible.

Ryker proved to be a further embarrassment to CYBERTEK and ROXXON when it was discovered he was illegally selling munitions to the Japanese. For this Ryker was brought to trial and found guilty of treason. Many more surprising revelations followed as a result: Ryker designed another, non-humanoid, deadly cyborg who wreaked havoc and destruction, causing several deaths, before it could be destroyed. Additionally, Ryker planned to offer the deadly services of Deathlok to the highest bidder — creating, in effect, a super mercenary.

ROXXON refuses to comment on Ryker, his trial, or the Deathlok cyborg. Deathlok cooperated with the government in prosecuting Ryker, and was known to be in communication with *Nick Fury*'s espionage agency, S.H.I.E.L.D., but has since disappeared. Many sightings of Deathlok have been reported in the New York City/Long Island area, and it is currently assumed that he is no longer an immediate threat to society.

NUCLEAR MELTDOWN: STARK ENTERPRISES Suffering



STARK ENTERPRISES has recently been the focus of violent demonstrations as union negotiations stalled due to the erratic behavior of corporate chief *Anthony Stark*. Stark has been experiencing what some might call a run of bad luck, beginning with the meltdown of a reactor at the STARK ENTERPRISES NUCLEAR RESEARCH FACILITY. A disaster was narrowly averted only by the timely intervention of *Iron Man*, member of the AVENGERS and Stark's bodyguard, who whisked the entire reactor away to explode far below the surface of the Atlantic Ocean. Although this certainly reduced the effect such an explosion may have had if allowed to occur on land, there will most definitely be long-term problems as a result of the radiation released into the water. STARK ENTERPRISES is currently researching the meltdown and its environmental repercussions, but results are not yet available.

Stark, using corporate funds, has also aggressively sought out properties once owned by financial expert and billionaire *Desmond Marrs*. Although some of these acquisitions damaged Marrs's empire, leading some to speculate on how this may relate to Marrs's recent suicide, not all of these acquisitions have been profitable. Analysts are at a loss to explain the continued enthusiasm Stark displays for these properties.

Stark, a very private person, has not spoken with the media and has stayed out of the public eye. According to his publicist, he is currently in China for undisclosed business reasons.

THE RISE AND FALL OF A MEDIA ENTERPRISE: R.I.P. WFET

New Yorkers watched their newest media company climb to great heights before being brought to its knees. Multimillionaire and import-exporter *Alison Fisk* created the very popular superstation, WFET, Fisk Entertainment Television. WFET kept its ratings in the clouds by sensationalizing current events, especially local news, and gathering a dazzling array of superstars who defected from the major networks. Disgruntled ex-employees claim Fisk used intimidation tactics and blackmail to acquire such major talent.

Fisk had been compared to *Ted Turner*, who has created and maintained a successful media empire. No one will make that mistake again, as Fisk is now alleged to be intricately involved with the criminal underworld and will never recover the once-shining empire he built.

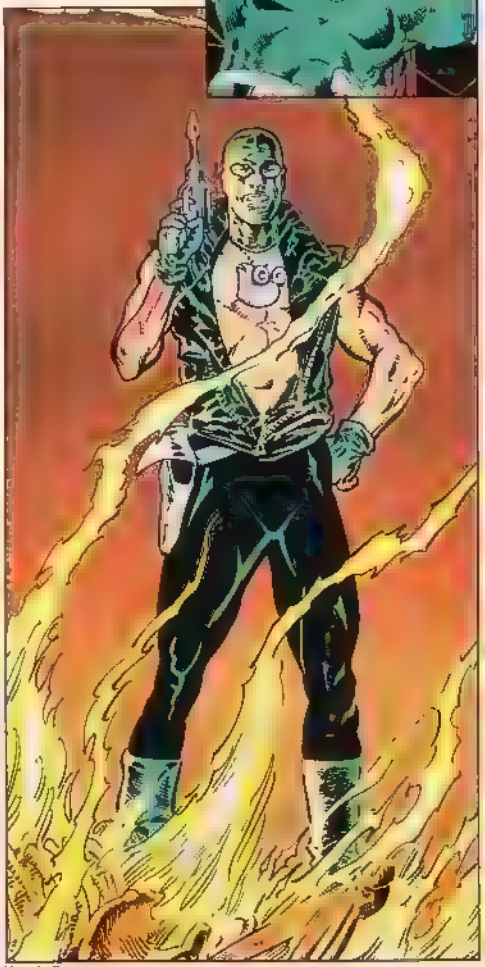
See article, p. 42.

— Sarra Massoff

Interview with a Psychopath

A candid conversation with a vigilante who celebrates April Fool's Day on a daily basis.

America's obsession with serial killers in 1991 was witnessed everywhere from headlines to the silver screen. A series of copycat killings emulating the modus operandi of the Foolkiller prompted us to send staff writer Glenn Herdling to the Central Indiana State Mental Institution to interview the committed psychopath Greg Salinger, who once assumed the mantle of the Foolkiller.



Right: Greg Salinger
Below: Gerhardt.

MARVEL YEAR IN REVIEW: You've admitted to sharing a correspondence with the current Foolkiller. What is your relationship with him?

SALINGER: Well, it's no secret that the guy's name is *Kurt Gerhardt*, some poor schlepp whose father was killed by a street gang. He wrote me after I appeared on that loudmouth *Runyan Moody*'s show.

MYIR: You're saying that Gerhardt's extremist vigilante activities were triggered by his father's murder?

SALINGER: Don't be so cliché! He saw society for what it is - a cesspool of material desire that drowns the innocents who get sucked in. Funny thing, a misspelled auto repair sign made him realize that society is too lazy to put forth the effort to recognize a common good.

MYIR: Who were the "fools" and how were they chosen?

SALINGER: At first they were just your typical street scum — you know, muggers and rapists. Then he went after a drug supplier — I think his name was *Backhand*. He wasn't too successful with that one. But he managed to take down that real-estate exploiter *Darren Waite* and his right-hand man, *Mendosa*. He dressed Mendosa in his Foolkiller outfit, and a S.W.A.T. team killed him on sight. (laughter) Who are the real fools? Gerhardt also killed that loudmouth Moody on his own show!

MYIR: At first the public praised the Foolkiller and he was hailed as the common man's answer to the *Punisher*. Then he started killing war protesters, public speakers, and merchants. Why the change?

SALINGER: First of all, the Punisher is a wimp! The Foolkiller has crystallized his position on fools. The war protester was hypocritical, the speaker patronizing, and the merchant was just plain greedy. Gerhardt told me that anyone pursuing momentary gratification at the expense of others is a fool.

MYIR: How did you both communicate?

SALINGER: Computer modem. My shrink is still living in Freud's age of paper and pencil. He never thought to check it out. I directed Gerhardt to find my hidden purifying gun and costume. He kept the gun, but made a more fearsome costume. Guess he's not as flamboyant as my predecessor and I.

MYIR: Where is Kurt Gerhardt now?

SALINGER: I honestly don't know. My computer privileges were revoked. But if I know him, he's probably done something extreme to his appearance since there's a nationwide A.P.B. for him. So don't act like a fool — especially in front of strangers!

— Glenn Herdling

SUCKING IN THE SEWERS:

THE MORBIUS TRIP!

The [illegible] infamous as "The Living Vampire," made headlines once again this summer as he battled the costumed adventurer *Spider-Man* in an abandoned tunnel beneath Manhattan. The web-slinger donned his rarely-seen black-and-white costume for subterranean camouflage in what photographic evidence suggests was an all-out slugfest.

Once a Nobel Prize-winning biochemist, Morbius has long been plagued by a compulsion to feed on human blood to survive, a condition brought about in an attempt to cure himself of a rare blood disease. Over the years, his gruesome exploits have garnered Morbius the attention of an equally bloodthirsty band of ghouls: our nation's press corps. Recently, Morbius has been linked to the disappearance of several homeless people in the vicinity of the Port Authority bus terminal. "The Living Vampire" apparently used an unidentified accomplice to procure his victims.

According to Daily Bugle photographer Peter Parker, Morbius was abetted by a community of "Mole People," the inbred inhabitants of the city's many subterranean tunnels. Parker, a young shutterbug who's made a career out of photographing Spider-Man in action, claims that Morbius had been manipulating the "Mole People" (or "Good Ones" as they supposedly refer to themselves) into providing [illegible] for his ivory appetites.

New York [illegible] Parker's claims "unfounded."

"Mole people, schmole people," said Jameson. "It's obvious from Parker's photos that the web-headed menace was in cahoots with that blood-sucking freak, Morbius! God only knows what that wall-crawling weirdo hoped to gain by preying on our city's homeless! I'm sure he gets some kind of perverse kick out of stunts like this!"

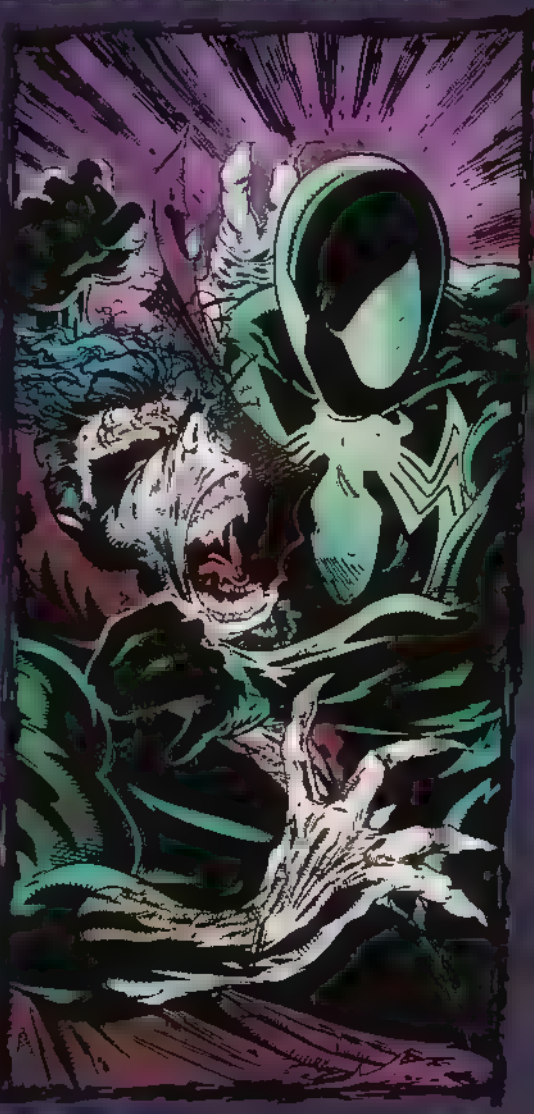
Parker counters that Spider-Man [illegible] situation he characterizes as "unfortunate."

"It was really just a big misunderstanding. [illegible] didn't mean to hurt anyone. He's a very sick man. He needs help, not persecution."

Unfortunately for Morbius, [illegible] affliction seems as far off as ever. Still, he remains a strangely noble figure, a man of reason driven to kill by forces beyond his control. The tabloid press has played up the sensational aspects of his curse, but what of the man behind the grisly headlines? Morbius, "The Living Vampire," is a pale nightmare. A story to frighten children. A shadow at the end of a dark street.

Dr. Michael Morbius remains a [illegible] current whereabouts are unknown.

—Carl Kar[illegible]



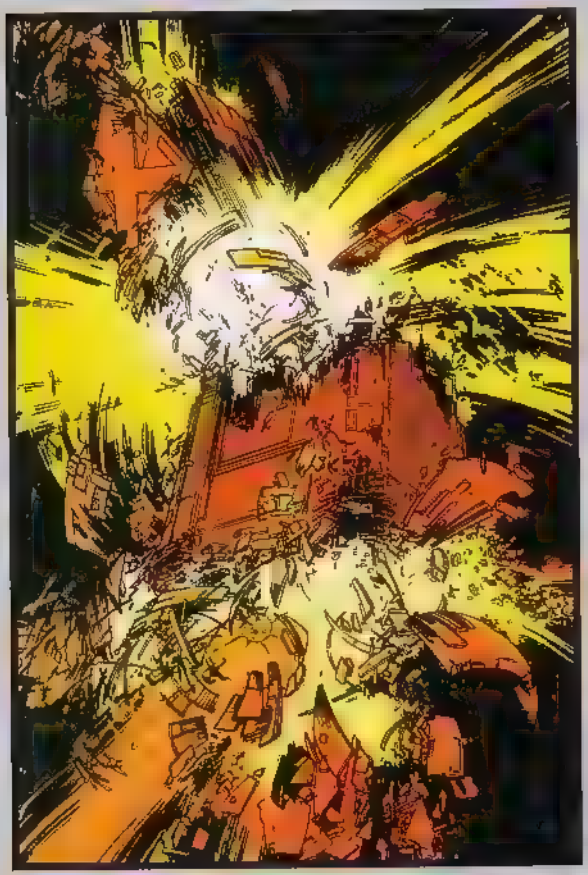
Deaths & Resurrections

1,500 Killed as Terrorists Bomb S.H.I.E.L.D. Office

NEW YORK —

In one of the most devastating terrorist attacks in United States history, several bombs detonated in a building believed to be the main New York office of the intelligence network known as S.H.I.E.L.D. (Strategic Hazard Intervention, Espionage and Logistics Directorate), killing an estimated 1,500 people. Sources report that a large number of casualties were S.H.I.E.L.D. cadets readying for their commencement ceremony to become full agents.

N.Y.P.D. bomb squad officers were unable to comment on which terrorists were involved in the bombing, but eyewitnesses claim that several men in green and yellow costumes were seen lurking at the site prior to the event. Using this testimony, experts have hypothesized that the terrorist organization known as HYDRA is responsible for this heinous act. HYDRA, a formerly expansive TERRORIST network, has not made much news over the past several years, but this attack shows they are definitely back on the terror circuit. *Colonel Nick Fury*, Director of S.H.I.E.L.D., was unavailable for comment on this revelation.



Skyline Eyesore Self-Destructs

NEW YORK —

The realty and architectural worlds breathed a collective sigh of relief as the greatest eyesore on the Manhattan skyline, a building/aircraft known as "*Ship*," self-destructed over the city. The reasons for this structure's apparent suicide (or Shup-icide) are unknown, but few tears are being shed by downtown residents.

Soon after Ship landed near Battery Park, locals began to complain that the structure frightened them and created safety risks for the community. Adopted as the home of the mutant super hero group X-FACTOR, Ship quickly became the nexus for numerous battles between super-powered individuals. This fact, combined with recent alleged attacks on innocent bystanders by the building itself, did indeed create a dangerous situation for all the denizens of lower Manhattan. This danger, combined with the sudden obstruction of many buildings' river views, caused a precipitous decrease in neighborhood land values.

Rumors abound as to why Ship decided to kill itself. Some say it was taken over by an alien being; others blame it on faulty programming; still more say it was hurt by all of the bad press it was getting in architectural magazines and local newspapers. Whatever the reason, though, Ship's presence in Manhattan has once again proven that New York is the place where anything is possible.

If only all building demolitions were this easy...

Deaths & Resurrections

Desmond and Phoebe Marrs

Marrs Kills Self

NEW YORK —

Millionaire industrialist *Desmond Marrs* was found dead in the New York office of MARRS CORPORATION, of an apparent suicide. The costumed vigilante known as the Punisher was present at the time of death, but he fled the crime scene and is presently wanted by the N.Y.P.D. for questioning.

Marrs, President of MARRS CORP., had recently drawn media attention when STARK INDUSTRIES attempted a hostile takeover of his Fortune 500 corporation. Because of this attack, MARRS CORP. had begun to suffer financially. Rumors have recently surfaced which connect Marrs with major narcotic cartels in the New York area. Apparently, Marrs also embezzled funds from ORACLE INC., the environmentally conscious corporation run by the Atlantean AVENGER *Namor*. Presumably, Marrs's financial problems were his chief motive for this alleged suicide.

Marrs is survived by his twin sister, *Phoebe*, who was vacationing in Antarctica and unavailable for comment.

Thor Kills Villain in Battle Over Broadway

NEW YORK —

During a devastating battle in a Manhattan skyscraper, a man who believed himself to be the mythical being known as *"Loki, God of Mischief"* was killed by the super hero AVENGER, Thor.

According to police sources, the battle ensued because Loki kidnapped a young boy, Kevin Masterson. During the fray, witnesses claim Thor called Loki his brother, and many references were made to the legendary plane of "Asgard" and to various "gods." After the death, Thor turned himself over to police custody, but he subsequently disappeared in a flash of lightning.

Ironically, one other victim in the battle was an innocent bystander, *Susan Austin*. Austin was seriously injured by a stray energy blast seen emanating from the hand of Loki. This blast, seemingly intended as a last ditch attempt against Masterson, nearly killed Austin. Police say it was this incident that caused Thor to go berserk and kill Loki. Thor's connection with this mysterious woman is unknown, as are his ties to the kidnapped child.

Industrialist Shaw Killed in Gas Accident

INTERLAKEN, SWITZERLAND —

Sebastian Shaw, president and chief executive officer of SHAW INDUSTRIES, was apparently killed along with three of his aides when an explosion occurred in his chalet in the Swiss Alps. Although the official reason given for the blast was "a faulty gas heater," insiders suspect that sabotage was involved. The possibility of suicide has not been ruled out either, as it was discovered that Shaw's company was bought out by an unknown investor minutes before the blast.

Shaw is survived by his son, *Shinobi*, who could not be located for comment.

Rand Resurrected, Resumes Business

ANTARCTICA

Daniel Rand, former partner of RAND-MEACHUM, INC., and alleged costumed super hero *Iron Fist*, has reportedly returned to the world after a complete disappearance for several years. Rand, who was presumed dead after being reported missing for several months, has now regained control of RAND-MEACHUM, and has embarked on a series of large ventures in the Savage Land.

When questioned, Rand was unable to explain the reasons for his prolonged disappearance or his sudden re-emergence, and rumors abound that this man is not the real Danny Rand. Who is he, you ask? Some say he's just a man who looks like Rand and wants the multi-million-dollar company; others say he's a mysterious villainous alien known as the *"Super Skrull"* — who can imitate the powers of the FANTASTIC FOUR, and still others say he's Jim Morrison, finally back from his long hiatus. But whoever he is, this man is causing quite a stir in the business world.

— *David Wohl*

INTERNATIONAL

REAL WORLD PROBLEMS THREATEN TO DESTROY LEGENDARY AFRICAN KINGDOM

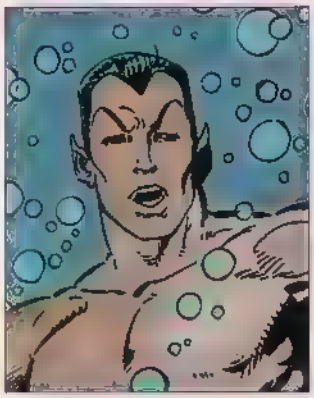
Black Panther Confronts Drug Dealers and Industrial Espionage Agents and Is Forced To Consider Marriage

Wakanda, the African nation that is the sole world source for the strategic metal Vibranium, is regarded by many to be more myth than reality. This image has been scrupulously maintained by that nation in order to insulate it as much as possible from the variety of threats contained in the outside world. Unfortunately, the image belies the truth, for its ruler, *T'Challa*, who is also the costumed AVENGER known as the *Black Panther*, has had to grapple with a number of real world challenges. These range from pressure to marry and produce an heir to the Wakandan throne, to a growing drug problem and industrial espionage that threatens the security of his nation. His solutions for dealing with these problems, especially his selection of the American singer *Monica Lynne* for his queen, proved to be serious assaults on the fabric of Wakandan society. For now, T'Challa's position with his people is secure. But clearly his method of crisis management has proved to his people that despite the fact that he is their king and a super hero, he is not perfect.

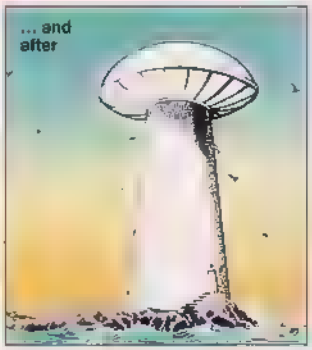
SOME YEARS IT JUST DOESN'T PAY TO GET OUT OF BED

The Trials and Tribulations of Namor Outmatch the Labors of Hercules

The controversial AVENGER and super hero, *Namor*, has had more than his share of problems this year. Among the high, or rather, low points was his disastrous business alliance with his rival, industrialist *Desmond Marrs*, a court judgment that placed him on a hundred year probation, and a brutal battle with his World War II adversaries *Übermensch* and *Kriegerfrau* in Berlin, Germany. Then he had to stop a major environmental crisis (amongst other things) in the Savage Land.



Maybe next year will be better for Namor, but don't count on it



EXCALIBUR LIGHTHOUSE HEADQUARTERS TRASHED

English Super Hero Group Rebuilds with Tasteless Results

Though a man's home may be considered his castle, when it comes to a super hero team's home, as in the case of the English group, EXCALIBUR, that home is more likely to be a target. Apparently that was the case when the mysterious group which calls itself the TECHNET allegedly set off a time bomb at the top of EXCALIBUR's headquarters. Fortunately there were no fatalities nor any serious injuries. There are unconfirmed reports that the TECHNET had a hand in the renovations and in fact incorporated a number of new and top secret additions and equipment. Unfortunately, the new architecture leaves something to be desired. The structure has been unfavorably nicknamed "The Giant Mushroom" by *Alistair Stuart*, the Senior Consulting Scientist to W.H.O., the Weird Happenings Organization. Let us hope for EXCALIBUR's sake that the outspoken architectural critic and heir to the throne, *Prince Charles*, doesn't see it.

— Dwight Jon Zimmerman

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From the WEEKLY WORLD INQUIRER

ADIOS, COSMOS!

HALF THE UNIVERSE DESTROYED - BY A MADMAN FROM SATURN!

Half the people in the universe were killed! By a madman from Saturn! *Daryll Smith*, an alfalfa farmer from Tupelo, Mississippi, was the only witness to the startling event. "It's true," said a sincere Smith, "His name is Thanos. He just snapped his fingers and poof! People started disappearing." How did the maniacal mad dog accomplish this? "He had this glove," Smith said honestly, "It was real pretty; all covered with gems. Must have been worth a lot. Thanos called it the 'Infinity Gauntlet.'" The gems were the Infinity Gems, six cosmic jewels of incredible power. The combined might of the gems gave Thanos the power of God

THE EARTH DOOMED!

The demented demi-god knocked the Earth out of its orbit! A panicked populace stood in horror as the Earth was rocked by earthquakes, tornados and volcanic eruptions. "It was terrible," said a distraught but credible Smith, "People screaming, buildings falling; knocked down the whole barn What a mess that was. Hay and chickens everywhere Of course, it was kinda funny seeing the cows out in the back forty tip over." A group of super heroes came together at the home of a *Stephen Strange* in Greenwich Village, New York. "I couldn't believe my eyes," said an unnamed on-the scene source, "a whole bunch of them costumed types sitting around the living room. There was that *Silver Surfer* fella , *Thor*, the *Hulk*, *Iron Man*, *Captain America*, *Spider-Man*, *Quasar*, and that stocky guy with the long nails, *Wolverine*. But the one that stood out the most was this fella by the name of *Adam Warlock*. He was calling the shots. Had real nice hair."

Eros, Adam Warlock, and Nebula

Thanos with the "Infinity Gauntlet"

BYE-BYE, GOOD GUYS!

Led by Adam Warlock, the super powered heroes attacked the psychotic supreme being. But the deranged deity brushed them aside like flies "Boy, was Thanos ticked off," said a hysterical but reliable eyewitness, "He turned Thor into a giant Hummel. Then, he smashed him into a million pieces! He fried Quasar like a slab of bacon and turned Wolverine into a mass of furry jello. And then he got really mad! It was not a pretty sight. They never stood a chance "

THANOS'S GRANDDAUGHTER:"GO SUCK EGGS, GRANDPA!"

The crazed king of kings wannabe was brought down by his own great-granddaughter, whom he had trapped between life and death! "Her name was *Nebula*," said a very consistent high-placed source who wished to remain anonymous. "The minute Thanos turned his back, she took that Infinity Thing away from him. All of a sudden, she had the power!" In perhaps the most startling development of all, the defeated former Gauntleteer joined forces with Warlock, the Silver Surfer and Dr Strange According to a leading expert in the field, "Thanos tricked Nebula into turning back time 24 hours. The result of this was that everybody who had died was now alive again." The world's super heroes were all back home, on an unharmed Earth with no memory of what had happened.

continued on next page

ADVERTISEMENT

QUASAR: "HE CUT OFF MY HANDS!"

BAD GUY BEATS QUASAR - KILLS EON!

Quasar's hands were cut off by an evil madman! Quasar, the Protector of the Universe, was powerless to stop the grisly act. A close friend of Quasar's said, "It's true, Maelstrom wanted the Quantum Bands. So, he cut off Quasar's hands to get them."

Maelstrom used the Quantum Bands to kill Eon, Quasar's mentor. "Eon was very old," said an expert on extraterrestrial beings, "possibly as old as creation itself. And, despite his 6-million-mile-wide body, was very weak. I believe that he was killed for his vast knowlege of time and space."

Maelstrom's next act was an attempt to destroy the universe. Said an anonymous astronomer, "Its true, Maelstrom created a giant black hole. Black holes absorb and destroy all matter. This hole was so big, it would have swallowed the entire universe."

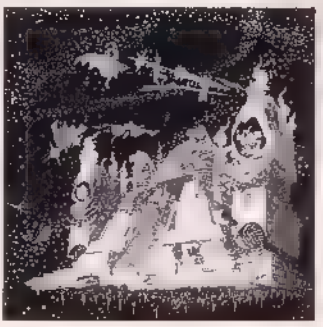
In the end, Maelstrom was defeated by Quasar. Said an unnamed eye-witness, "It's true, Quasar saved the day. He threw Maelstrom into the black hole. It destroyed him."

It is unknown how Quasar survived the loss of his hands, or how he grew new ones. But as of this writing, he is alive, well, sporting a new costume, and the universe is safe again.

(continued from previous page)

THE EARTH-SHATTERING CONCLUSION!

The ever-vigilant Daryl Smith reports the startling events that then transpired: "Okay, so the Gauntlet thing started glowing brighter and brighter. Nebula screamed like she was on fire, and ripped it off. But before anyone could reach the Gauntlet, it exploded into the figure of Adam Warlock! My guess is that somehow he gained control of the Gems from the inside and then set everything right." There are many unanswered questions in all of this. Who is Adam Warlock? Does he possess the power of the Infinity Gauntlet? Can he be trusted with this power? Whatever became of Thanos? Have we seen the last of him?



Thanos's Castle

RICK JONES: "I DIED AND MET THE GHOST OF ELVIS."

Musician, author, and professional sidekick Rick Jones died and met Elvis. "He looked great," said Jones, "just like he did in *Jailhouse Rock*. When asked what he and the King talked about, Jones replied, "Food, mostly. He wanted to know if the McLean Deluxe was as good as their regular burger. Then he asked me if I liked fried peanut butter and banana sandwiches. He also asked me if I had a Snickers bar on me." Did the King seem to mind being dead? "No," answered Jones, "but he did think it was funny that people thought he was still alive. He said, What did they think he's been doing for the last fourteen years holding his breath?"

Jones was asked if the King had a message for all of his loyal fans. "Yeah," he said, "he did. He said he thinks they should all get a life. Then he said he wishes that all those Elvis impersonators would go and dress like Carmen Miranda and leave him alone. The last thing he said was that in hindsight, *Viva Las Vegas* probably wasn't a good career move." How exactly did Jones die and come back? "I don't really know," said Jones, "I was at a show when all of a sudden half the people in the audience started to disappear. Before I knew what was happening, I disappeared too. Then I just reappeared. I know it all sounds a little weird, but after you've been to the Negative Zone and back, you sort of get used to this kind of stuff."

— *Matthew Morra*

Tony Stark couldn't find a car to meet h

- Vibranium bumpers and shock absorbers
- Gyroscopic stabilizers
- Vertical Take-off and flight gear (Airspeed 98 mph) *
- 5000 Megabyte on-board computer
- Stark "Vulcan" cold fusion generator*
- Emergency Driver/Passenger Force Field Generator*

* special license required in some areas

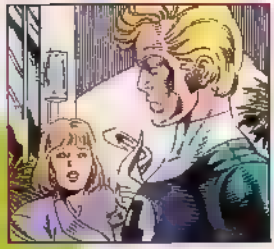
is exacting standards.

So he built one.

STARK

LOOSE LIPS

by Suzanne Gaffney



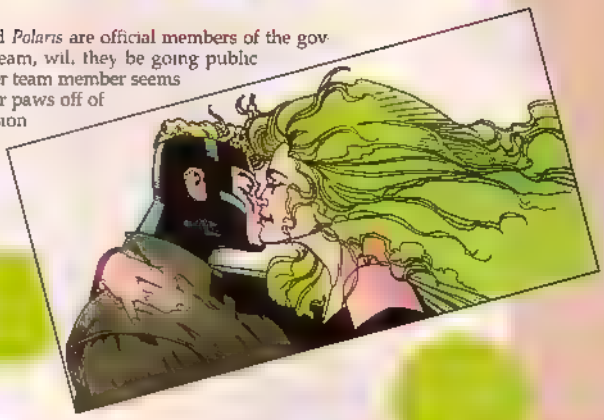
Great Balls o' Fire, or should we say, Leapin' Lizards! What's going on at Four Freedoms Plaza? Fresh from her hasty and secretive divorce from FANTASTIC FOUR member *Johnny Storm*, blind sculptress *Alicia Masters* seems to be dead set on rekindling *Ben Grimm's* fire for her. The *Thing*, however, appears to be carrying a torch for wrestling star *Sharon Ventura*. We sure wouldn't want to get caught in this crossfire!

It's obvious what's causing *Daredevil's* rapid pulse. You'd have to be blind not to see that Daredevil has the fever for *Typhoid Mary*. But what about his rumored former romantic interest *Karen Page*? Does out of sight really mean out of mind?

It seems Hollywood action-film star *Simon Williams* has been pursuing more than his career. According to the local paparazzi, it's curtains for the enchanting associate producer *Helen Eve*, but bombshell starlet *Ginger Beach* is still clinging to this rising star. While AVENGERS team member *Scarlet Witch* is waiting in the wings, rumor has it that *Wonder Man* may be taking his next cues from screenwriter *Alex Flores*. It's a wonder Wonder Man has any energy left for acting!

LOOSE LIPS

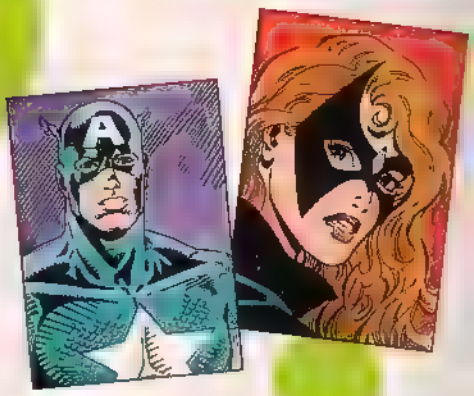
Now that X-FACTOR's *Havok* and *Polaris* are official members of the government's mutant super hero team, will they be going public with their relationship? Another team member seems to be having trouble keeping her paws off of team leader Havok. Do we sense tension between teammates?



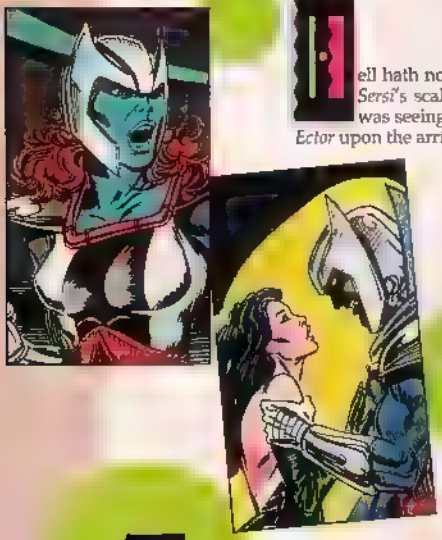
Torn between two teammates? This tense triangle took a turn for the worse when EXCALIBUR'S swashbuckling *Nightcrawler* and cantankerous *Captain Britain* came to blows over the much-adored *Meggan*. Captain Britain wound up in Otherworld court over the blue elf's busted bones.

There's a rumor afloat that *Stellaris the Celestial Slayer* has her eye on *Thor*. Even the *God of Thunder* isn't about to tangle with a biker babe who has a tendency to blow up planets when perturbed

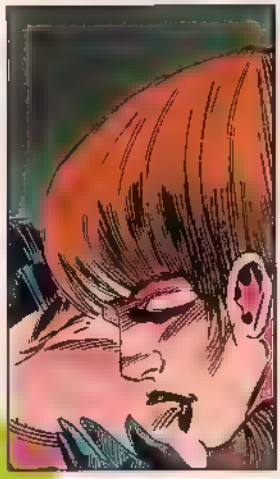
Loose Lips



We hate to say we told you so, but ... we told you so. *Diamondback* definitely does dig do-gooder *Captain America*. We would be remiss, however, if we didn't mention a *Miss Bernie Rosenthal* who seems to be keeping Cap company a little too often for Cap's cohort's comfort



Hell hath no fury, and *Sybyl Dorn* hath plans for AVENGER *Sersi*'s scalp. This blue-faced member of the BRETHREN was seeing red over being dropped like a hotcake by *Thane Ector* upon the arrival of this tempestuous Terran.



Cal us clairvoyant! We predicted the return of the *Box* step. Looks like *Diamond Lil* will be dancing down the aisle in January with teammate beau *Box*. Any miscreants expecting to cut in on their dance card can forget about it. This happily married couple will be leaving ALPHA FLIGHT and waltzing off into the Canadian sunset.

LOOSE LIPS

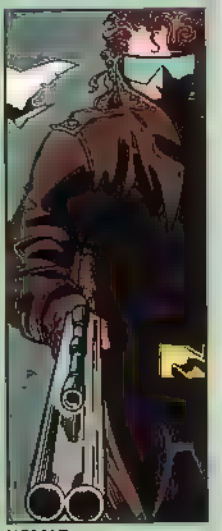
Looks like multionaire industrialist *Tony Stark* is interested in more than the healing hands of *Dr. Su Yin*. Can it be that she wouldn't mind playing doctor with him either? But what will her hubby say?

Are things starting to sizzle with NEW WARRIORS *Firestar* and *Marvel Boy*? We thought we saw a certain telekinetic making a move on a certain mistress of microwaves.

Is bashful *Betty* backing out on *Bruce*? But hubby *Hulk* is still hankering for his honey! Meanwhile, *Marlo's* makin' the move on the green man's sidekick *Rick*. Dig?

Mirror Image

JOHN BLAZE



NOMAD

"I'll take the trench coat in brown, the sawed-off shotgun, the dark shades ... let's see ... leave some stubble on the chin, leave the hair long... Hey, whaddya mean the guy before me ordered the *same thing*!?"

THE OWL

"Listen, Logan, I've been at this game since the sixties, and I've had it. If you're so hot to be a super hero, why don't you take these claws of mine and go join those X-MEN? You can also cop the hairstyle if you want. Lord knows they never made me rich or famous."

WOLVERINE

STEVE (CAPTAIN AMERICA) ROGERS

CLINT (HAWKEYE) BARTON

HENRY PYM

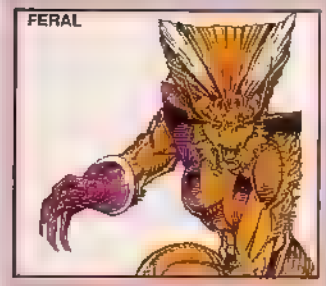
JIM (ORIGINAL HUMAN TORCH) HAMMOND

MAR-VELL

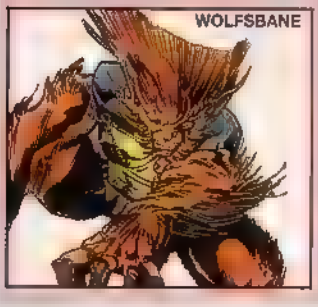
WENDELL (QUASAR) VAUGHN

The master race is alive and well and comprises the core of the AVENGERS!

Mirror Image



Okay, hands up, how many people thought Wolfsbane was a member of X-FORCE until they read the roster? Yup, we thought so.



DAN (GHOST RIDER) KETCH

RICK (SLEEPWALKER) SHERIDAN

CHRIS (DARKHAWK) POWELL

Not only were these three separated at birth, they were *all* granted a super-powered alter ego within a year of each other! Either there's a conspiracy of *Boys of Brazil*-like proportions going on, or quasi-mystical alien super-beings just have a thing for the brown-haired boyish type ..

CABLE

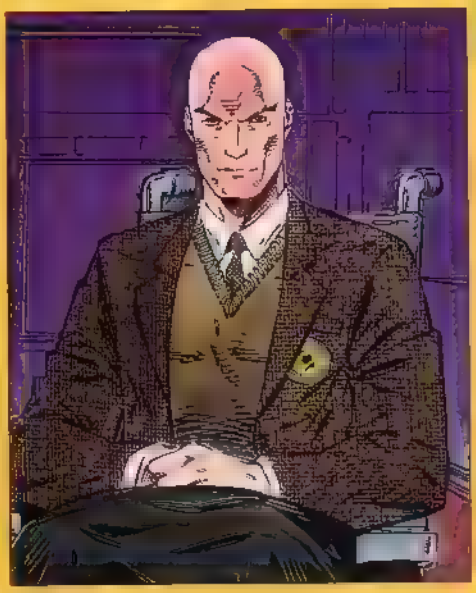
UNIDENTIFIED MERC

We found this "G.I. JOE" type's photo, dated several years before Cable posed for his. Now we think we know who Mr C patterned himself after!

MR. FANTASTIC FLATMAN

Now it can be told! Reed Richards' similarly-powered twin brother was abandoned at birth by their parents when it was discovered that he possessed only — gasp — *average* intelligence! Can even a membership in the GREAT LAKES AVENGERS erase the shame of it all?

MAN OF THE YEAR: PROFESSOR X



by Paula Foye

A year of new ideals and good intentions saw the re-emergence of one of mutantkind's and humankind's grandest idealists. *Professor Charles Xavier*, known affectionately by former students as Professor X, is many things: genius, leader, even warrior. But he is nothing if not a dreamer, which makes him a perfect choice for this year's Man, uhm ... Human ... uhm ... Person ... uhm Sentient Being of the Year.

Charles Xavier was born in New York City, the son of nuclear researcher *Brian Xavier* who gained brief renown by giving his life in the search for new and better nuclear weaponry. Heavily impacted by his father's sacrifice for science, young Charles continued the Xavier tradition of bold scientific research. He enrolled in Bard College at the age of sixteen, acquiring a degree in biology in only two years. Next he attended Oxford University, where he garnered advanced degrees in genetics and biophysics simultaneously.

After years of ground-breaking research and a life-altering experience that cost him the use of his legs Xavier turned his attentions away from the abstraction of science towards humanitarian efforts. Aside from founding an exclusive, international school for gifted youngsters, Xavier is best known for his efforts in reconciling humankind and mutantkind.

Above and beyond these known facts, the man called Professor X has remained an enigma, and, as his acquired nickname would suggest, this is exactly how he prefers it.

We know he is no stranger to adversity. Xavier lost his parents as a youngster, and lost his legs as a young adult. While serving in the U.S. Army in the Pacific he also lost his stepbrother.

Adjusting to these changes sent him traveling all over the world, and he turned his back on higher learning for a period. His experiences and the people he encountered on his journeys appear to have shaped his future vision. Travels over, he returned to the U.S. and received a Ph.D. in anthropology at Columbia University and then spent several more years studying psychiatry in London.

Later, when he began his campaign for mutant rights he suffered the persecution of mutant hate groups. Even in the ivied halls of Columbia University a skirmish with anti-mutant protesters proved nearly fatal. He was beaten and bloodied for his pro-mutant sympathies. Shortly after the Columbia incident Xavier disappeared for a period of several years. Health seems to be the primary reason for his departure.

Xavier's genetic status is his most mysterious aspect. Could Professor Xavier be a mutant himself? While at Oxford he met fellow geneticist *Moira Mac Taggert*, with whom he shared an interest in the study of mutant humans. In his younger days, he had been associated with the mutant terrorist *Magneto* (although the two held differing viewpoints). The other speculation (and it doesn't seem unfounded) is that Xavier's School for Gifted Youngsters may have a few young mutants among its students and gives them a chance to use their powers safely and to a good purpose. In his mutant-rights activities, Xavier has also been connected with a band of infamous mutants called the X-MEN. Despite what some may call a handicap, his confinement to a wheelchair, witnesses claim to have seen him at the scene of some of the X-MEN's most renowned battles.

Whether or not these allegations are true, his School for Gifted Youngsters is a place where special young people have an opportunity to study with one of the greatest minds of our time. Word has it that the man is one exceptional teacher. He started the school in his own mansion in Westchester County in southern New York, and its hallowed halls never see more than a handful of students. This reporter had the opportunity to see one of the thousands of rejection letters that the school sends out. Admission is highly selective. In fact, it's been said that Professor X will find you if you're what he's looking for, so you needn't bother to

A reliable source claims this is a recent shot of Professor X; walking?

apply

His efforts have been likened to those of *Martin Luther King, Jr.* After all, it has been almost exclusively his tireless efforts to inform the public of the nature of mutantkind that have resulted in a more accepting view of *Homo sapiens superior*. And it is his ability to see beyond his own disabilities that makes his words even more poignant

When talking to him, what comes through is a man who won't let obstacles stand in his way It almost seems like he seeks out obstacles and thrives on overcoming them. He certainly has ended up in more than his share of tough situations. He says it was those early years that have made him the man he is today. And what is that? A person who has managed not to become jaded despite hard knocks.

"I'd already lost my hair when I was sixteen and attending Bard, studying biology," he tells us. "It didn't make for an easy social life. But I finished my studies in two years, so I have to say that anything that was different about me just made me work harder and pushed me forward that much faster."

When asked about being chosen Man of the Year, Professor X said, "I'm sorry, what's the name of your publication?" We told him that we had tried to contact him for several months during 1991 without success. He said, "I've been ... abroad." We asked him if he could tell us how he had managed to fade from the public eye over the past few years and he said, "I've been away on business."

When asked about overcoming his handicaps he queried, "What handicaps?"

Q: What are your plans for the future?

A: "You'll have to wait and see."

Q: Is there any special person in your life?

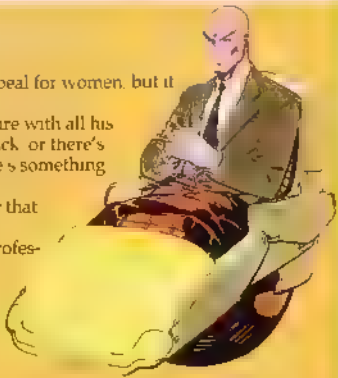
A: "Several. I'm afraid I'll have to cut the interview short, as I have some business to attend to."

He obviously doesn't care much for frivolous conversation. He appears to be a humble, restrained man, and this only adds to his appeal. We decided to ask a few people who know him well if they could give us insight into this private man. We got similar responses, "He's dedicated," "He's driven," "He doesn't know the words, 'give up'."

Professor X dreams of a world of peace, a world without conflict, or so he says, but the man doesn't seem to mind a good battle when one comes up

As we begin this new decade, this last of a millennium, we may finally live in the world of Charles Xavier's vision, a world of peace, unity, of man and mutant accepting each other for their similarities and coming together in a world without bigotry. His ability to overcome odds, not to give up in the face of adversity, and his lifelong quest to extinguish fear and ignorance should inspire the same qualities in all of us. Perhaps at last as we reach into the 21st Century we will do so united. M

Professor X Shuns Hair Club for Men- And Women Agree: Bald CAN be Sexy.



ou wouldn't think a chrome dome like Professor X would have much appeal for women, but it turns out the opposite is true.

"I wouldn't want to see him with hair," one woman on the street said "I'm sure with all his scientific knowledge he could probably think of something to make it grow back or there's always a transplant But then he just wouldn't be the same Professor X There's something powerful about a man who can look as good as he does without it."

Another woman remarked that it was the fact that he didn't have any hair that accentuated his intelligence "It gives him a powerful profile Al cranium."

Though succinct on other topics we were able to get a few words out of Professor X on the subject of hair loss.

"I've been so long without it now I wouldn't know what to do with it if I had it. Besides, I've known some beautiful women in my time and they all tell me it adds to my appeal. It's a mark of distinction. What makes me me. Fashions in hair styles may come and go, and I don't have to think about them."

I think we can all agree - some men just look better once they've lost it. Some men even shave their heads on purpose. Professor X doesn't have to and he doesn't have any plans to change what he doesn't have Now that Professor X is back in the spotlight, he just may set a new trend.

SLEEPWALKER

Many New Yorkers would undoubtedly tell visitors to their fair city that they are never surprised by anything that happens in the Big Apple. But recent sightings of a mysterious figure identified only as "*Sleepwalker*," have left the mouths of many an urban dweller gaping lately. The police are baffled by this ghostly being. Is he friend or foe?

New York City police officer *Joe Cooper* reported seeing the Sleepwalker in the company of notorious criminal *8-Ball* and his band of thieves. "We had that creep 8-Ball in our hands. This, this whaddaya call him ... Sleepwalker thing seemed to be apprehending this crook during a bank heist. Then he just disappears and lets 8-Ball and the rest of his cronies get away."

Other instances involving the Sleepwalker have been reported, including his apparent intervention in the robbery of a New York City corner grocery store. A *Miss Alyssa Conover* was present at the scene of the crime. Miss Conover is purportedly the first person to make verbal contact with this creature. "Yeah, he spoke to me. And I don't mind telling you he had me shaking in my bloomers. It's not every day that you come face to face with a seven-foot-tall, green-faced alien. I asked him who he was, and all he said was 'I am a Sleepwalker.' Cripes! I am *a* Sleepwalker?! Does he mean there are more like him out there?!"

That same question is on the lips of many local authorities and even federal officials. And with good reason. According to the thugs who attempted the robbery in Alyssa Conover's neighborhood, this being possesses strange and startling powers. "He used this ray beam on me, man. He melted a steel lamppost around me," said *"Slippery Sal" DeLuca*. Sal's partner in crime, *Nate "the Blade" Janson*, didn't fare much better, as he claims the Sleepwalker caused him to be swallowed up by a mailbox. "I'm tellin' ya man, the mailbox came alive! A thing like that is dangerous. It shouldn't be allowed to walk the streets, you know what I mean?! Walk the streets? Oh man, what am I saying, that thing was floatin' on the air higher than Michael Jordan!"

Could an entire race of Sleepwalkers be planning an invasion of our city, or for that matter, the world? The mayor of New York City had this to say about the situation: "We are taking every step necessary to look into this problem. Right now, however, there have been no reports of actual injury or harm being done to the citizens of this city."

While "calm in the face of potential danger" seems to be the Mayor's policy, even his reserved nature couldn't match that of one city youth, *Rick Sheridan*, who also happened to be at the same corner store during Sleepwalker's appearance. When questioned by police about the events occurring that day, Mr. Sheridan absently shook his head, shrugged his shoulders and replied, "I don't know. I ... I think I was asleep." Asleep?! Through all that excitement?! Just who is the "sleepwalker" around here anyway?!

— Tom Daning

There's A New THUNDER GOD In Town

According to a number of sources there's a new "thunder god" in town. The *Mighty Thor*, one of the founding members of the super hero group known as the AVENGERS, has either gone through some drastic changes or is not the god he used to be. Reports from a number of very reliable people confirm this.

Earlier this year THOR was seen fighting a number of his old foes on the streets of Manhattan, and on at least one occasion, in the Bronx. The battle in the Bronx was the scene of a war of the gods, if you will. The "gods" in question being the Asgardian AVENGER and his long-time fellow AVENGER, the Olympian *Hercules*. Joining the two in this struggle was yet another AVENGER, *Quasar*. The outcome to this feud was actually humorous to anyone fortunate enough to pass the Statue of Liberty that night, for the son of Zeus, the Prince of Power, found himself tied in a large yellow ribbon dangling from Miss Liberty's torch.

Central Park Officials were more than busy this summer. Not only did *Paul Simon* put on the largest free outdoor concert ever, but the nearby Delacorte Theater was the sight of a fight between the new thunder god and the *Absorbing Man*. Luckily no serious or extensive damage was done to either the park or the surrounding stage area.

The new Thor; He's hip, and you can understand what he's sayin'

In another incident this year, witnesses report that demons from another dimension tried to overwhelm Thor and the mysterious and elusive character known as the *Ghost Rider*. Although this report cannot be confirmed entirely, similar accounts do lend credence to the story, and it would not be the first time that something of this nature has happened on the streets of New York.

The very first sighting of the new thunder god was reported by an eyewitness from a special branch of the New York Police Department known as Code Blue. The officer in question has asked to remain anonymous, saying that the new Thor "has a lot of things to work out."

Rumor has it that the new Thor once again sports a full beard. Along with the newly anonymous whiskers comes a new costume of sorts. The slight change in his appearance leads to even more speculation. Once again though, reliable sources have assured this writer that this is indeed a new Thor. Looks alone do not a hero make. The old "thees and thous" are no longer in Thor's speech, and his attitude is quite different. People having seen and dealt with the Asgardian legend know he's not the man he once was. So if this is not the real thunder god, then who is he? And what has become of the original Thor? Then again, when dealing with a mythological character, who can be sure of anything?

—*John "Lewie" Lewandowski*

10 Best Dressed

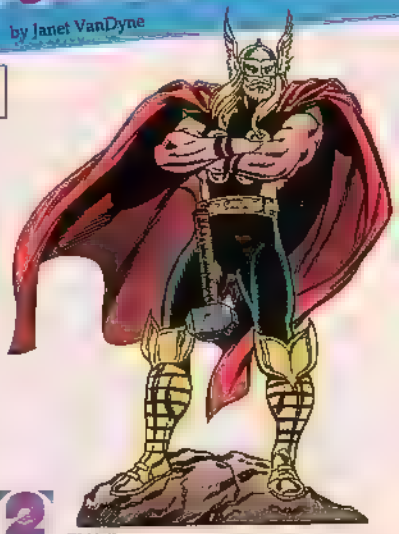
by Janet VanDyne

Of 1991

Top Five Men

1 HAVOK

A non-obstructive protective headdress, an unobtrusive X, fabric that makes sense, pockets that serve a purpose — this is what a super hero costume should *always* be. Very '90s!



2 THOR

It's a nice blend of old and new elements. And I especially love the headdress Very ~~manly~~ *godly*

3 KA-ZAR

Ka-Zar showed up at the U.N. this year not only wearing *clothes*, but wearing very *smart* clothes. I've always been a sucker for a man in a double-breasted.

4 PROFESSOR XAVIER

The very fact of Charles's *being* is enough for me to include him on my list this year. The suit is beautiful, but he could have been wearing cardboard for all I care. I'm so glad he's back!

5 DESMOND MARRS

Here's a tribute to a great dresser. I don't mean to be glib here, because Dapper Des lost his life this year, and the fashion world lost one of its wealthiest, yet most morally bankrupt, members.

Ten Hot Women

1 MARVEL GIRL
Jean Grey's new costume, like Havok's, is totally functional yet totally charming. Bravo!

2 ROGUE
This little dahlin' is no wilting Southern petunia. Her new look says "sweet, tough, and ready fo' action!"

3 MARY JANE WATSON-PARKER
I feel a little badly that I trashed her last year, especially when I saw MJ in this gorgeous designer number — although there are several women who wanted to scratch her eyes out when she wouldn't reveal the designer's identity! I say, good for her!

4 BETTY BANNER
I used to consider Mrs. Incredible-Hulk to be the frump of all time, but since she's been stepping out with Mr. Fixit's ex & Rick Jones's current, Mario Chandler, Betty has been looking sharp in the new outfit department.

5 TIGER TYGER
Her look is beyond description — retro '60s almost does it, but not quite. Whatever it is, IT gets my vote for delicate, feminine, and unique. Hey, we can't all be tough gals.

10 Most Dressed

Of 1991

Top Five Men

1

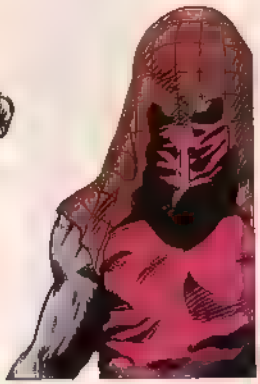
In this world of extreme super power, I like to be able to tell the good players from the bad. Which is why I'm such a big advocate of costumes. Little Johnny grew up bad—in attitude *and* taste in dress.

2

Living vampire my foot. This guy should die from shame. Maybe that's why he's trying to cover himself. I've got news for him—no amount of fabric is gonna help.

3

Maybe we should call this one the Best *Un*dressed Award. 'Nuff said.



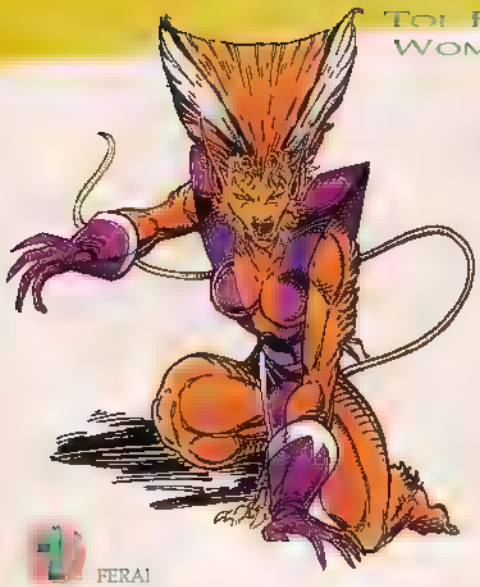
4

I'd love to have this guy over for breakfast sometime. He'd look great on my kitchen table—I need a new cloth.

5

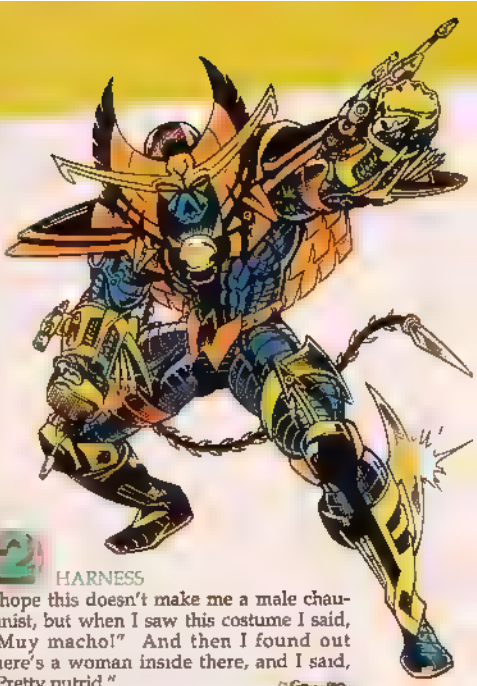
Wattamumut! I thought that purple and tatters were yesterday's news. And he's supposed to have gotten some smarts! Poor Betty.

Top Five Women



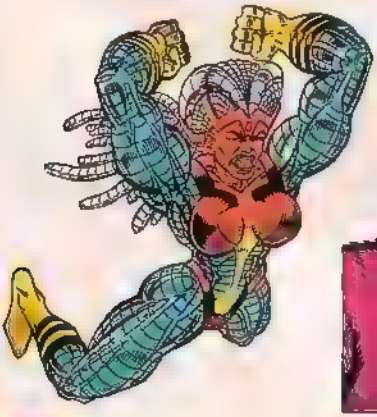
1 FERAL

Beauty is *not* only skin deep. I'm sure Feral is a lovely person, but orange and pink together do *not* work for me—or for her, obviously.



2 HARNESS

I hope this doesn't make me a male chauvinist, but when I saw this costume I said, "Muy macho!" And then I found out there's a woman inside there, and I said, "Pretty putrid."



3 KNOCKOUT

Madame Colossus? As some of my west coast counterparts would say, *most* heinous!

4 BANNER

Yes, she looked great this year, but Betty had a temporary setback with a most unpleasant choice of hair color But I did say temporary - - she got better.

5 POLARIS

Speaking of poor color choices — Polaris, hon, your hair clashes with *everything*. She's a lovely girl, though.

NEW KID ON THE BLOCK

There's a new guy in town, and his name is *Darkhawk*. Not much is known about this mysterious dark figure, but rumors have it that he has a grudge against *Philippe Bazin*, the alleged King of Crime in Queens. Bazin, now standing trial for murder, refused to comment. News reports, however, have been able to place Darkhawk in action near Bazin's business offices and home. Reliable sources confirm that Darkhawk has been overheard threatening Bazin's life. Is this any way for a hero to behave?

Although only a novice, Darkhawk has already rubbed broad shoulders with the famous and powerful. Heroes such as *Spider-Man*, *Daredevil*, the *Punisher* and the AVENGER *Captain America* have all been seen fighting side by side with this dark dude. The elusive Darkhawk has not been available for comment, but Daredevil and Captain America were both willing to go on record. Soon after their battle with the U-FOES, Captain America stated "he's young, inexperienced, a danger to himself and others, but he's trying." Daredevil added, "When he gets his act together he's going to be one of the more powerful heroes in town."

Darkhawk Vs. Hobgoblin: Everybody seems to want that amulet!

Darkhawk has also managed to attract the seamier side of the superpowered set and has been in head to heads with *Hobgoblin* and *Tombstone*. Both were reportedly after the amulet on Darkhawk's chest. Maybe this is more than costume jewelry?

If Darkhawk has to deal with these guys, then it might take some of the pressure off Philippe Bazin (whose alleged dealings in crime have been making headlines for a number of years) allowing Bazin to concentrate on his upcoming trial. Bazin's lawyer, *Monroe Harris*, claims "Philippe Bazin is guilty of one thing: being too successful in legitimate business for some people's liking." Bazin's daughter, nightclub-hopping *Allegra*, has been out of circulation recently. Could it be that the trial of her father for murder and extortion is making her bashful?

Prosecuting is Assistant District Attorney *Grace Powell*, whose own life has been hitting the headlines recently with the disappearance of her husband, Police Officer *Mac Powell*. His disappearance has been linked to bribery charges and corruption in the police force.

Not only does Grace Powell have to contend with a missing husband, but her eldest son, *Chris*, was shot recently in an unexplained attack at the Museum of Natural History. In addition her younger son, *Jason*, is in intensive care following the explosion of a bomb planted under his mother's car. But despite all she has to endure, Grace Powell still manages to make a good impression in court.

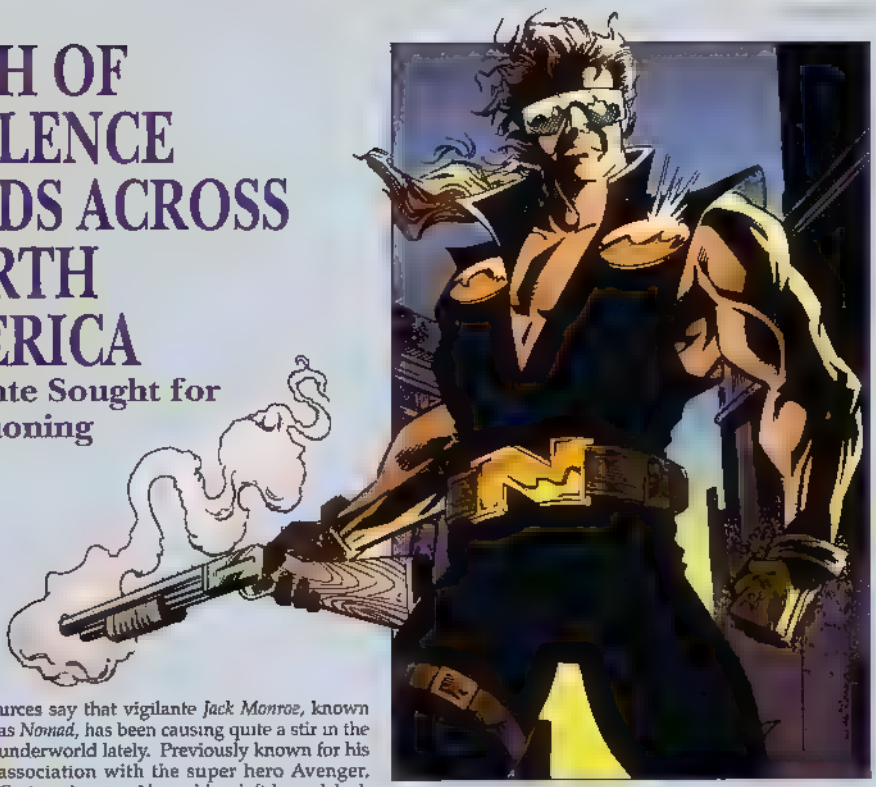
The tables were turned on Bazin when the surprise witness for the prosecution turned out to be his daughter, Allegra. It looked like her evidence was going to be enough to put him away, yet he made his escape during an attack by *Savage Steel*, an armor-powered vigilante in the Punisher mode. He has been giving Darkhawk a hard time this year. It was an impressive Darkhawk who was finally able to get the better of Steel. The man beneath the metal was revealed to be *Harry Lennox*, a Manhattan-based private investigator. Does this mean the end of his license?

Darkhawk, who started the year 1991 with a blast, looks like he might not make it into '92! Unconfirmed reports have indicated that Tombstone has in fact gained possession of Darkhawk's amulet, and is claiming it contains great power. But will he use it responsibly? This remains to be seen.

— Richard Ashford

PATH OF VIOLENCE LEADS ACROSS NORTH AMERICA

Vigilante Sought for Questioning



Sources say that vigilante *Jack Monroe*, known as *Nomad*, has been causing quite a stir in the underworld lately. Previously known for his association with the super hero Avenger, *Captain America*, Nomad has left his sidekick days behind, and he is currently fighting for his own American Dream.

Apparently, Nomad saved the life of a young Hispanic woman a few months ago when she was shot by alleged associates of businessman *Umberto Safilios*. *Elia Arriguez* was brought to JACKSON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL in Miami, Florida. Ms. Arriguez survived the shooting, but her spinal column was severed, and her doctors say that she will never walk again. Within hours of the first shooting incident, tragedy again struck the Arriguez family. Elia's father, *Hector Arriguez*, attempted to confront Mr. Safilios, and was shot in the chest. Mr. Arriguez was pronounced dead on the scene.

It appears that Nomad sought vengeance on the Arriguez family's behalf. Safilios barely escaped death after Nomad caused him to lose control of his vehicle. The authorities found large quantities of cocaine in the damaged vehicle, and although law officials credit Nomad for the bust, Nomad is still sought for questioning.

Nomad was next sighted in Minneapolis, Minnesota. CYBEROPTICS — one of the top cybernetic research facilities in the nation — was apparently linked to Umberto Safilios's drug smuggling operation. Rumor also has it that CYBEROPTICS had developed a weapons program for a cybernetic super-gun. In any event, Nomad brought about the collapse of the CYBEROPTICS drug connection and left Minneapolis toting an infant. The infant's identity is unknown. However, sources say that Nomad has illegally adopted this little girl, and she now goes by the name of *Bucky*. Nomad is wanted by Minneapolis Welfare officials in regard to the baby's true identity.

The government-appointed psychiatrist for superhuman affairs, *Ms. Andrea Sterman*, is currently working with federal authorities on the Nomad incidents. When asked about Nomad's vigilante behavior, Ms. Sterman stated, "Nomad is a man driven by a strong sense of justice. He is merely a super hero who has adapted to brutal times, thus he has become a vigilante."

Who is Nomad? Where will he pop up next? And what is to become of baby Bucky? No one knows, but one thing is certain: wherever Nomad turns up next, crimelords and criminals beware! This is one vigilante who will make sure that no bad deed will go unpunished.

Just prior to this magazine's publication, Nomad was sighted in Seattle, Washington. Although no contact with the vigilante has been made, federal authorities have assured us that arrangements are being made for his apprehension. He is still sought for questioning in at least four states.

— Pat Garrahy

Feature

FALL FROM GRACE

Anatomy of a Crimelord's Deconstruction

by Wayne Worcestershire

His name was *Wilson Fisk* — but now he's just the *Kingpin*.

Check any of the headlines — "Kingpin on trial!" "Kingpin and Daredevil — Forced Busing!" "Kingpin Bailed Out!"

The man who had worked so hard at appearing legitimate, who insisted he was merely a "humble dealer in spices," who sat in his ivory tower and watched New York feed on itself, who laughed in the very face of Justice — he's gone, perhaps never to return.

In his place stands a brutal cadre of crimelords, seemingly preparing to war for the city's vices. One might wonder if the stability — the professionalism — exhibited by the Kingpin might be preferable to the rain of violence that is sure to fall.

It began when Fisk's strongarm enforcer and rumored lover, known as *Typhoid Mary*, was taken out of the picture by — go figure — the Department of Social Services. Typhoid, whose real name is apparently *Mary Mezmis*, was taken into custody pending psychological evaluation. It is believed she may be a multiple personality schizophrenic.

Meanwhile, Fisk, whose past is largely shrouded in mystery, watched as his hold on this city went up in flames — quite literally. His perfectly legitimate businesses, as well as his questionable ones, were simultaneously fire-bombed across the city with chilling precision. The hand which dealt that blow remains unnamed, but the effect was clear: The Kingpin was losing his grip.

New evidence linking Fisk to organized crime suddenly surfaced, courtesy of the U.S. Federal Prosecutor *Kathy Malper*, who had Fisk brought before a federal grand jury to face the charges. No longer able to hide behind lawyers, Fisk finally faced the law alone, stripped of his empire and its comforts.

The media, spearheaded by the NEW YORK DAILY BUGLE, began to jump on the bandwagon, openly calling Fisk "the Kingpin" in headlines and finally allowing investigative reporters to go after the big man. This was in stark contrast to previous Fisk coverage, which has traditionally been circumspect, almost to the point of suspicion.

Pulling testimony from literally scores of witnesses, including a U.S. Army general, Prosecutor Malper (a.k.a. the "*Dragon Lady*") began forcing Fisk into a corner — which made the Kingpin that much more dangerous.

The costumed vigilante *Daredevil*, a well-publicized foe of Fisk for years, was reportedly working behind the scenes during the Kingpin's fall. Daredevil apparently 'stung' the Kingpin while he was in this weak state, luring him to the Port Authority Bus Terminal with the promise of a high-placed government official's support.

It was the perfect bait for a desperate man.

Daredevil was apparently waiting for the Kingpin to arrive, because onlookers described a physical confrontation usually reserved for summer movie blockbusters. Enraged, the Kingpin apparently attacked Daredevil with uncharacteristic recklessness. The battle ranged throughout the terminal, with the Kingpin at one point commandeering a bus and ramming through the station itself, injuring many bystanders and causing over a million dollars in damage.

But the descent was not over for Wilson Fisk. Caught and arrested for the Port Authority rampage, an injured and incarcerated Kingpin found himself bailed out by *Jerry "The Whale" Sabini* — a "business rival," as Fisk himself would doubtless put it. Sabini reportedly had the former crimelord of New York City doing his dry-cleaning.

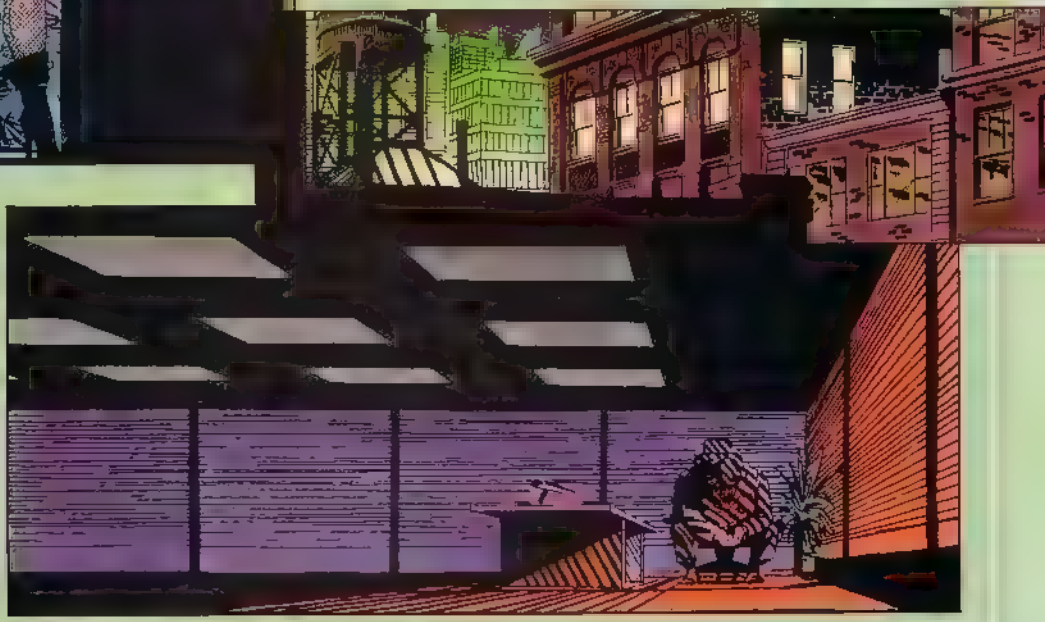
Photos, top to bottom:

Costumed crime-fighter Daredevil confronts the "Kingpin."

Typhoid Mary.

The New York tenement owned by Fisk.

A fallen Kingpin sits in darkness in his former office.



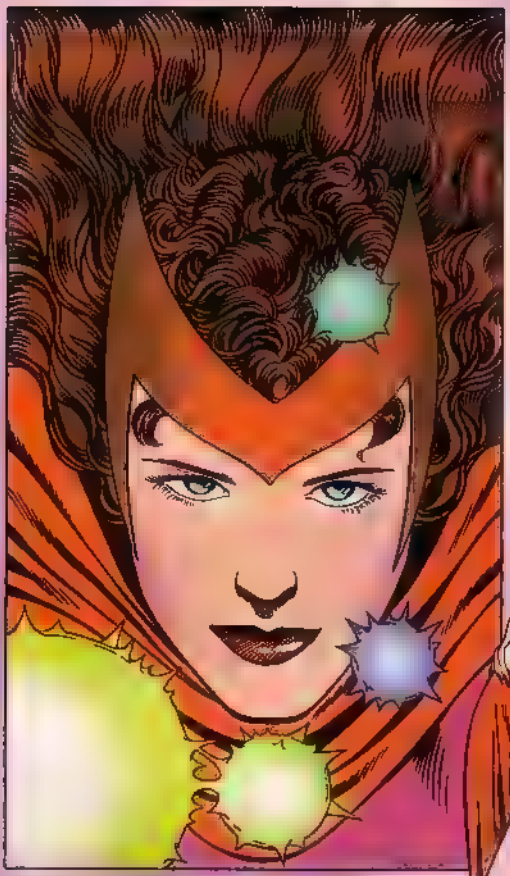
Then Sabini was killed, and the Kingpin was gone.

Did Wilson Fisk oversee organized crime in New York? Did he hire and love a schizophrenic killer? Did he blackmail an army general, a police chief, a newspaper publisher? Did he do "The Whale's" white shirts? Did he kill him?

The answers seem on the tip of Justice's tongue. But we may never truly know. One thing, however, is certain. the void left by Fisk will not remain hollow for long. Many will die in the crossfire that ensues.

More importantly, though, it may seem easy to discount the now homeless fugitive who was once the Kingpin, but it wouldn't be wise to do so. Wilson Fisk is a resourceful, intelligent, always dangerous man. Stripped of all that he worked for, all that protected him, the crushed soul of the Kingpin is still enough to cause the blood to run cold

Then again, perhaps this is justice.

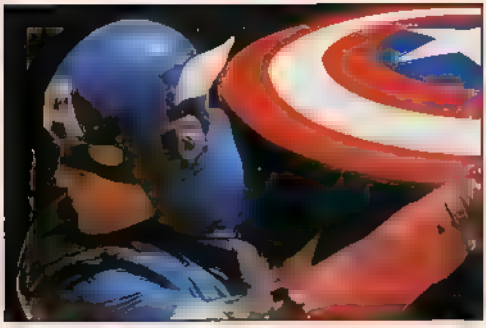


My costume makes me feel like a heroine ...

... but Yan Dyne dresses make me feel like a woman!

The Yan Dyne Collection®

Designed by a superwoman. For super women.



CAPTAIN AMERICA: THE MOVIE

(or Red, White, and Blech!!!)

To find something positive to say about this disastrous waste of celluloid is a difficult task indeed. But I'll try .....

Well, don't say I didn't give it a shot.

While other films chronicling the lives of super heroes have opened with an exciting, dynamic musical score, CAPTAIN AMERICA offers only listless shmaltz, barely above 1970s stag film quality. This, unfortunately, sets the tone for the next torturous two hours.

With murky cinematography, shoddy editing, and egregious acting, this "movie" has all the earmarks of a first-year film student's midterm project.

Matt Salinger is anything but heroic as Cap. Donning the red, white, and blue can't hide the fact that every line he delivers sounds like it's being read from cue cards. *Kim Gillingham*, who plays Cap's love interest, Bernie, is no better. The would-be touching love scenes shared by these two are made even more painful to watch by saccharin sweet piano music that could turn a low-blood-sugar sufferer into a diabetic.

Perhaps the greatest testament to the banality of CAPTAIN AMERICA: THE MOVIE was delivered by the real life Cap, who, after the premier viewing despondently exclaimed, "A severe blow has been dealt to the good name of liberty and justice today."

X-FORCE: THE REBIRTH OF A SUPER HERO TEAM

by Bob Tandy and Lance Bannon

New York's Daily Bugle reporter *Bob Tandy* and photographer *Lance Bannon* team up to deliver what is ostensibly the true account of the transformation of the famed super-mutant team known as the NEW MUTANTS into the consummate mutant fighting squad known as X-FORCE.

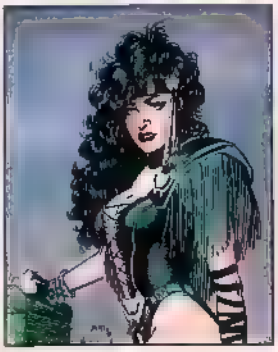
While Tandy and Bannon's first crack at biographical prose suffers some of the unevenness of new authors, it is for the most part an intensely gripping account of super hero group dynamics. Just how this seemingly rag-tag mess of mutants bands together is in itself a compelling adventure.

Tandy's competent interviewing skills shine as he probes deep into the psyche of each member of X-FORCE. Reportedly, during the interviewing, each member at some point broke into tears, though X-FORCE leader *Cable* denied this allegation profusely, saying, "No New York rag writer could ever make me squeeze water from these baby blues!! And you can quote me on that!!"

Complementing Tandy's writing prowess is Lance Bannon's adept eye for surreal photographic composition. Hundreds of photos depict X-FORCE at work, rest, and play. Most spectacular, though, are the action photos which have an unreal, but dynamic, quality.

X-FORCE: THE REBIRTH OF A SUPER HERO TEAM presents a new slant on the myths and machinations of mutant super heroes in a vastly entertaining package.

NIGHTCAT



Now here's an original; a pop music star who fights crime too! In this, her debut release, *Nightcat* proves herself able to knock off *Paula Abdul* as Queen of the Pop Charts, as well as knock off the criminals in her neighborhood.

NIGHTCAT, the album, is chock full of danceable tunes, heavily influenced by house and rap music. But don't be fooled. Under the seemingly straight pop influence lies a voice with a cause. *"You say you want a little piece of my love?/ Well let me give you a little piece of my mind,"* she sings in #1 House Rule. Other highlights are "Don't Change," and "Finally Found Someone."

— Tom Danny

CLASSIFIEDS

LOST AND FOUND

MISSING/Misplaced — Did you find a film-loaded 35mm camera in an unusual place, covered with a sticky substance? Contact P. Parker for reward, 555-1224

FOUND — Mysterious Object of Great Power. I have no intention of returning it, I just wanted to say thanks. Darkhawk

FOUND — Enormous bulldog/Shetland Pony(?) mix. Spiked collar with "Lockjaw" in royal script on tag. Mysteriously escapes all confinement. Owner please call A.S.A.P. — It's wrecked my garage, crippled my mailman, and eaten my golf clubs.

LOST/Missing Black Male w/ moustache, mid-thirties. Last seen comatose floating in sensory deprivation tank. Probably in corporate hands, may be hospitalized, certainly in terrible danger. Please send any info IMMEDIATELY to D. Lok, Box 267, NYC. No reward for info, but hell to pay if I find out who's got him.

LOST/Missing. Extremely large bulldog. Answers to "Lockjaw," will escape any attempts to confine.

WARNING — DO NOT FEED METAL OR WOOD -

It makes him extremely irritable. Regal reward. Phone 0-1-BLU-MOON. Call collect — it's extremely long distance.

FOR SALE

FOR SALE —"I DIED IN THE INFINITY GAUNTLET" T-shirts. Gold letters on black background. Also "I SURVIVED THE INFINITY GAUNTLET". Specify S, M, L, XL, 'Hulk,' or 'Blob.'

FOR SALE — slightly used vehicles. Several ballistic planes, some aquatic vehicles, one amphibious sub, many hovercars. Some special licenses required, will assist in paperwork. Very negotiable prices — we've just outgrown them and need the storage space. Call R. Richards for prices and specs, 555-4444

FOR SALE

WIGS, WIGS, WIGS! Any style, 'off-the-rack' or custom-made in minutes. Natural flaming red, can be dyed easily. Call Medusa, 0-1-BLU-MOON

FOR SALE — Ant Farm. Entire colony fully trained, housebroken. Looking to keep together, but will split up for good homes, especially "Queenie" (in case of split up, first caller gets the pick of the larvae). I love them dearly, but they're just not my thing anymore.

Call Dr. Pym, 555-WACO

FOR SALE — Huge Discount — Large supply of snazzy yellow and black jumpsuits with fashionable "X" logo on belt. Original buyer's change of order and refusal to honor contract force us to offer these beautiful, extremely durable jumpers, shirts, stretch pants and leotards at **well below wholesale.** Sale in lots only, some pieces sewn with holes for extra appendages.

★★ TICKETS ★★

Stones, Phantom, Mets, Dazzler. I get all the best seats for any show on request, unlimited quantity. My system for beating ticket sales limits is unstoppable. Why fight it? Call J. Madrox, 555-XFAC.

FOR SALE — Large collection of beautiful, one-of-a-kind ladies' outfits, Size 7. Most worn only once. A little flashy for formal affairs, but perfect for N.Y. nightclub or L.A. street wear. J. Van Dyne, box 520.

FOR SALE — X-Group updates. Need to contact a mutant, but can't figure out which team they belong to? Full list of members, addresses. Hurry, they'll go out of date quickly. **$4.95** check or money order to: Box 345, Westchester, N.Y.

FOR SALE — Large quantity pristine copies of classic 'lost' film. Bulk orders preferred. 'Cap' at Box 520.

FOR SALE

FOR SALE — Musical instruments, sets, equipment and lighting for eight-piece band. Previous owner star-spanning supergroup who have broken up. Priced to sell. Some equipment slightly damaged by photon blasts, all in good working condition. Contact Guido, 555-XFAC.

SERVICES

TRAVELING? Let me look after your house while you're away. I guarantee it'll be clean as a whistle when you return. F. Hardy, (555) BLACK-CAT

ULTIMATE detective agency now available to the public. Super hero-related information a specialty. If it happened on Earth, I know about it.

555-UATU.

Captain Ultra, **'America's Funniest Super hero,'** available for Weddings, Bar Mitzvahs. Super-Team functions a specialty. Routines include "Spider-Man's Hard Luck," "Where's Daredevil?," and "The Secret Life of Mr. Fantastic" (mature audiences only). Also have World's Largest Collection of mutant jokes. The safest way to let a super hero leave you in stitches. 555-HAHA.

ENVIRONMENTALLY SAFE Insect Removal. No pesticides, poisons. I just talk it out with them. Call S. Lang, 1-800-ANTMAN.

KANG Deliveries — When it absolutely, positively has to be there yesterday. Call tomorrow for immediate pickup today, 1-800-RAMA-TUT

TIRED of being pushed around by idiots? If you've got a legitimate beef, I'll roast it for you. **555-FOOL.**

ONE-MAN DEMOLITION TEAM. I can offer bargain prices because of my low overhead, and I really love my work. If you can make it, I can break it.

1-800-JUGGERNAUT

CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED

Help Wanted — Tough guys for tough work. Superpowers a plus, otnay ootay ightbray preferred. If you can't finish that last sentence by yourself, we want you. Call Taskmaster Temporaries for interview,
5 5 5 - G O O N

DAMAGE CONTROL

Wanted — Damage Control needs field reps and claims adjusters. Energetic, non-panicky self-starters only; 'para-people person' preferred. Also seeking construction workers and unpaid interns, NO SUPER POWERS PLEASE. Resumes to Personnel, Flatiron Building, NYC.

Environmental activists with strong business background wanted for America's fastest-moving Earth rights group. We take action — If they won't clean up, we'll clean 'em out. Contact
Oracle Inc., Personnel.

PERSONALS

SWM, Eastern European descent, seeks soulmate. Must not be hung up on looks. Interests include science, the occult, expanding my powerbase and crushing all foes. Replies to: **Victor, Box 1, Latveria.**

Physically challenged mental marvel seeks a new love. My last relationship didn't work out — we were from "different worlds." Seeking nice, ordinary Earth girl with a taste for adventure and a little "something extra." Write **Mr. Xavier, Box 345, Westchester, NY.**

Recently divorced, incredibly famous super hero, **SWM**, youngish, seeks solace for a broken heart. Honesty and sincerity a must — my ex was not all she seemed to be. Discreet replies to: **Johnny S., Box 4, Four Freedoms Plaza, NYC.**

PERSONALS

Jamie Madrox — Please come home. We know now why you had to leave us, our split left us too far apart. But we've been too close for too long to be strangers forever. Besides, you owe us money. Please call, all is forgiven. Love, Yourself.

Cynical **SWM**, 6', 195 lbs, 8006 years young. Several times married, seeks woman who can restore my faith in humanity. Must enjoy 'cocooning,' as I live a very isolated life and like it. Write to: **Master of the World (My friends call me 'Master') Box 3, Arctic Circle.**

REAL ESTATE

Getaway Condos!

Buy in NOW to vacation homes and permanent residences in the ultimate getaway spot — **The Savage Land!!** Panoramic views of lush, unspoiled jungle, scenic valleys and mountain ranges untouched by man, wildlife you'll have to see to believe (Hunting policies still under negotiation).
Timeshares available. Contact
K. Plunder Real Estate, 555-KAZAR

TIRED of high rents? Fisk Developers have recently acquired and refurbished a low-income housing project in central Manhattan, but far from the maddening crowds — underground, in New York's spacious and fashionable tunnel system. All units are definite fixer-uppers with lots of potential (previous owners were not renovation-minded and left in a hurry). Live conveniently near all major subways! Cut down on exposure to harmful ultraviolet sunlight! Several units already equipped with built-in mushroom farms! Contact
Fisk Realtors

Apartment Share — Easygoing world traveler forced to keep residence in states for business purposes, hardly ever home, seeks roomie to share expenses in spacious, walled-off Manhattan studio. Must not object to cigars, beer, mutants, or large parties. Call **Logan, 555-XXXX.**

REAL ESTATE

RENTING storage space on the West Coast? Let me reduce your bills by 90%! For Info Contact: **Dr. Pym, 555-WACO.**

SELF-IMPROVEMENT

Hypnotherapist to the super heroes is now available to the general public. Addicted to Gambling? Drugs? Smashing puny humans? Whatever the problem, I can help, *guaranteed.*
RINGMASTER Box 333.

SUPPORT GROUP for spouses and significant others of super heroes now forming. Tired of dealing with your man's constant metamorphoses? Jealous of your mate's extremely well-built "team partners"? Call Betty B. 555-3456. Let's talk about it.

FITNESS TRAINING. Yea, verily, I'll give thee a body most mortals dare not dream of. Write to 'Herc,' Box 520.

CONFUSED? ANXIOUS? DEPRESSED? GLOWING? **Licensed psychiatrist** with long history of dealing with super hero-related mental problems. From 'Hero No More' complex to 'Punisher Syndrome,' I've seen it all and more. Dr. L. Samson 555-4567. Most medical plans accepted.

COSMETIC SURGERY at unbelievable prices. Scars left only on request. CONTACT Masque, BOX 667

WEIGHT LOSS FARM — In confidential location, now available to the general public. Wide range of facilities guaranteed to melt those pounds away. Once we make a deal, we won't be satisfied until you're skin and bones. 1-800-MEPHISTO.

MISCELLANEOUS

SCENIC TOURS of Eastern Europe's most beautiful country. No crime whatsoever, natives happy to serve. Once you're there, you'll probably never leave. ***Air Latveria,*** BOX 206.

Fashion

BAD DUDES, BAD DUDS

AN X-FORCE REVIEW BY CLAUDIA CHRISTIANTOMO

Very little is known about them. They are a mysterious band of young mutants who have made scant public appearances in recent months. When they are seen, as most recently in Manhattan battling the *Juggernaut*, they make their mark and leave as quickly as they arrived. Heroes? Villains? No one is certain. Very little is known about the fighting band called X-FORCE except one thing — they dress really, really badly!

I mean, take them one at a time (or take them all, please!). Their leader, an older gent named *Cable*, is half-machine, half-man, and all gauche. Bulky vests, clunky boots, big metal cod-pieces. Please. Has this man ever heard of a nice Armani silk suit? A nice Alfani tie, maybe? Get with it! Older gentlemen should be dressed for success, not American Gladiators!

His female companion (rumors run hot and heavy) is named *Domino* and the less said, the better. An albino wearing all-black leather with a circle patch on her eye? Melvina Gibson meets the Little Rascals dog, perhaps?

The rest of the X-FORCE unit is made up of youths, and in this day of Madonna and Club MTV fashions, they can be excused a bit for their excesses. *Cannonball* seems to prefer lavender with old Howard Hughes-style airplane aviator goggles! *Feral* ... well, she's a cat, for crying out loud! Put a flea-collar on her and sift out her litter box every few days and you'll be fine. *Warpath*, a Native American, wears red and blue spandex with padded shoulders — as if he needed the pads! All we can say is that after seeing *this* outfit, I may just give up and become fashion consultant to the Unlimited Class Wrestling Federation. The only normal girl in this group is named *Boom Boom*, and that just shows you what normal is around here. She is rather endowed in the lung department and feels the need to display her wares in skin-tight pink aerobic outfits. She does get a brownie point for her sunglasses though. Last, but certainly not least, is *Shatterstar*. Him I will rave about! Sexy short cape, mysterious padded helmet, a machismo under which most certainly must burn the smoldering fires of sensitivity. He swings his swords around like he was born with them. A ferocious Edward Scissorhands for the super hero set! And what a *tush*! The others could take some lessons from this young man!

What does the advent of this rough and tumble group of troublemakers mean to the super hero community and the safety of people all over? Who cares! What they have done is help set spandex fashions back two decades or more!! Combine these youngsters with those cute and precocious NEW WARRIORS and we have unleashed unto our nation a generation which simply hasn't the slightest sense of fashion! Heaven help us all!

"REMEMBER, DRINKING AND DRIVING IS NOT ONLY DANGEROUS, IT'S AGAINST THE LAW.

"YOU KNOW WHAT I DO TO LAWBREAKERS."

— The Punisher

A Public Service Announcement

"Innocent Mud Has Been Spilled!"
Don't Shout it out, Ride it out!
The Ghost Rider knows that even the power of his penance stare can't cut through grime. So he uses Ride Detergent. Ride is specially formulated to get out even the toughest stains. Whether it's grape juice on cotton, or innocent blood on leather, only Ride has the power that can cover a multitude of sins. So, the next time you're faced with the stain from hell, remember, with Ride, stains don't stand a ghost of a chance!
NEW! MORE CLEANING POWER!
Ride
REGULAR SCENT POWDER
64 oz.
Ride
LIQUID
"It cleans with a vengeance!"